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VOLUME TWO

KISS

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WITH KISS!

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ANSWERED!

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GROOVES PRESENTS KISS II

Volume One
Number Three

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CONTENTS

KISS EXPLOSION 5
NEW YORK SUPERBAND .. 13
DREAM DATE WITH KISS .. 16
PARTY WITH KISS 20
ALL THE FACTS ABOUT THE WAX 23
A PRIVATE PEEK INTO THE DRAGON'S LAIR 30
FULL COLOR KISS POSTER 35
WHY I LOVE KISS 51
YOU CAN LOOK LIKE KISS 58
KISS LOOK ALIKE CONTEST 62
THE KISS PERSONAL FILE
PAUL STANLEY 65
ACE FREHLEY 68
PETER CRISS 71
GENE SIMMONS ... 76
CLOSING THE SHOW 79

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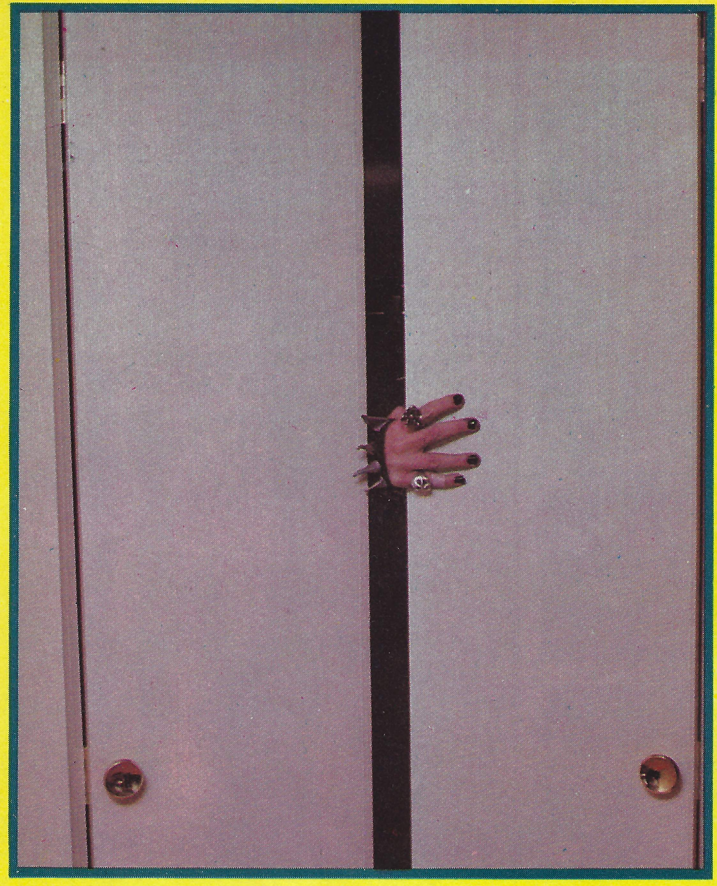
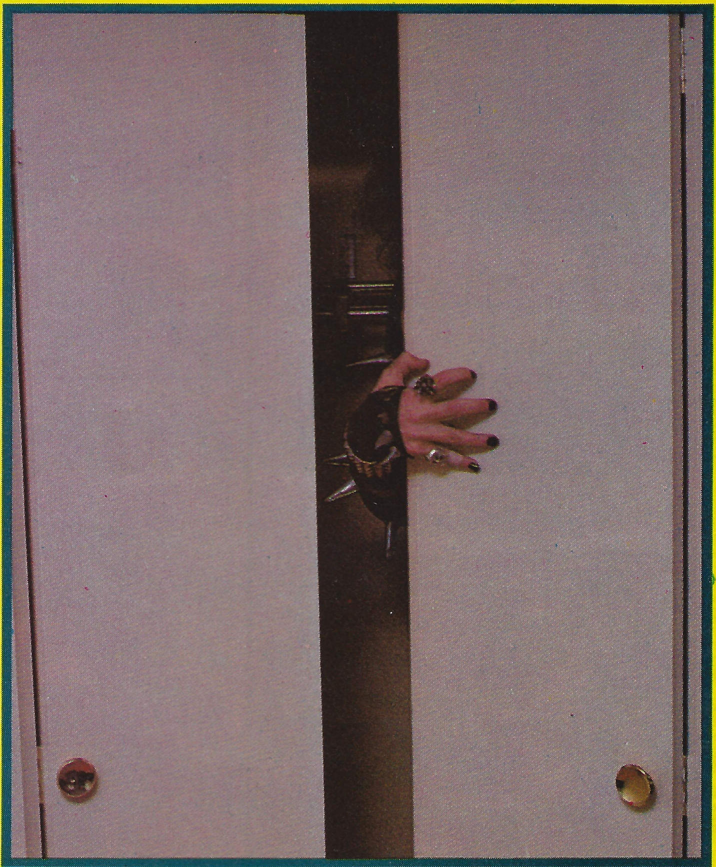
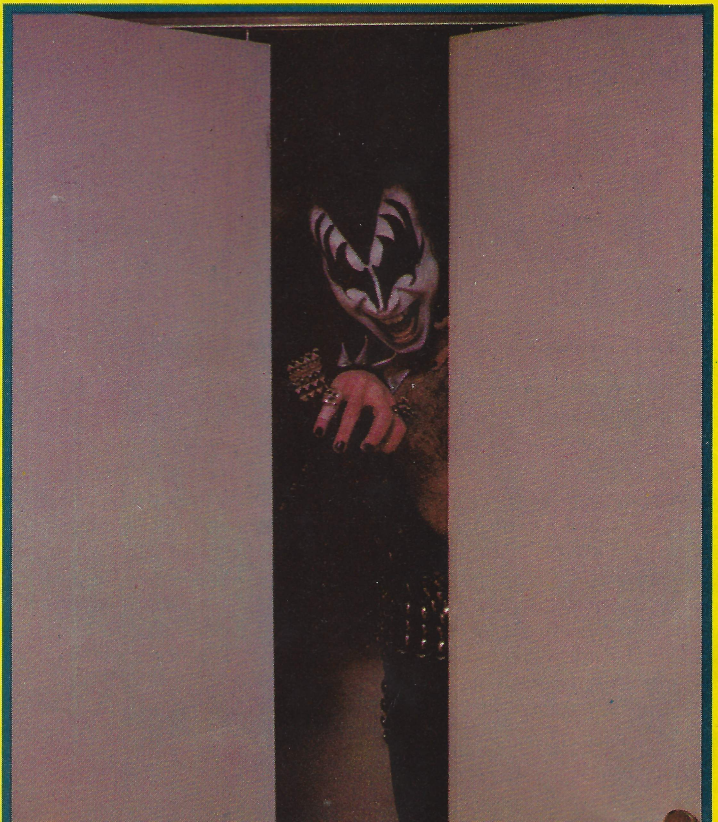
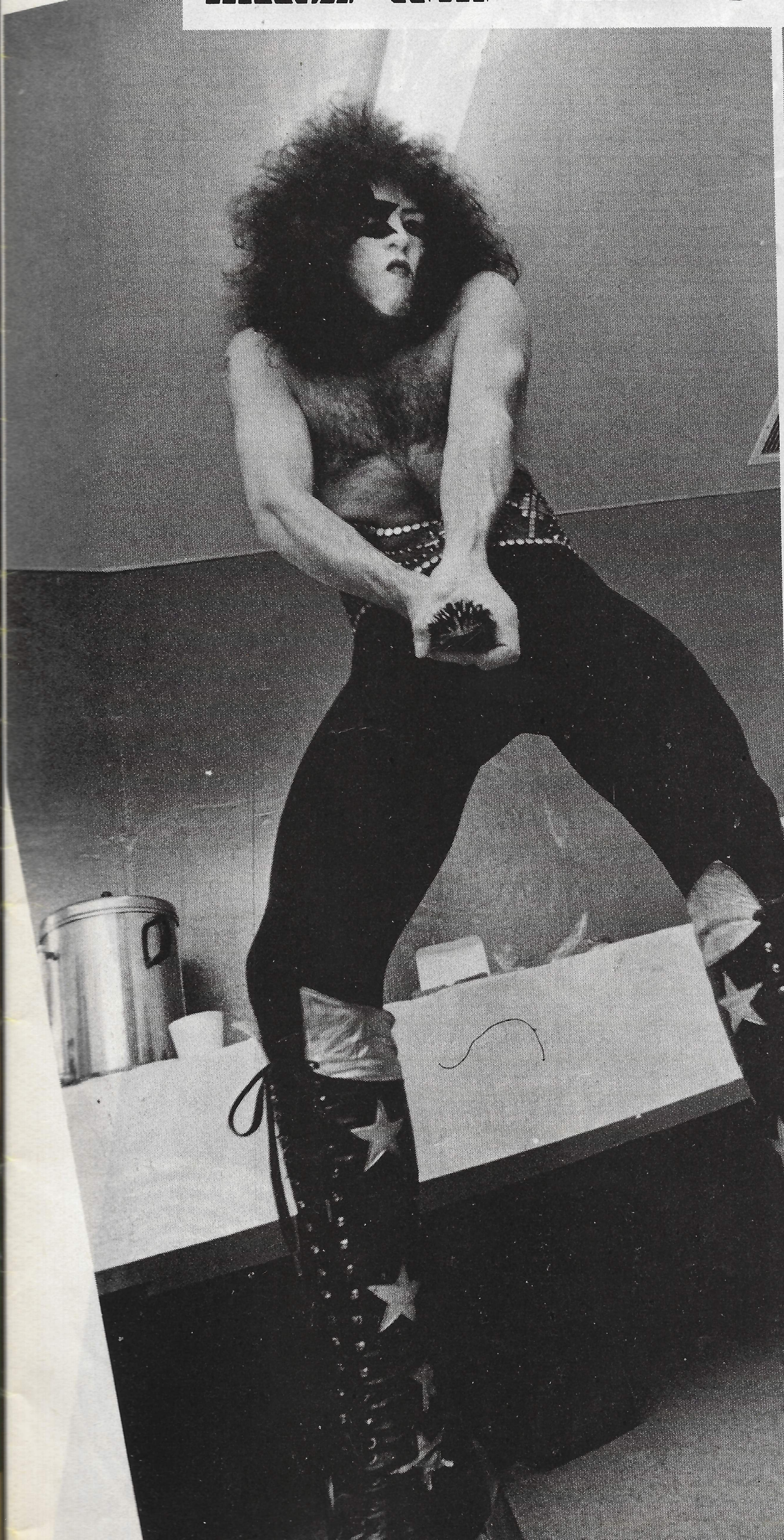






KISS EXPLOSION



How does KISS create their live show? With plenty of talent and HARD WORK!

Last year KISS made a triumphant debut tour of Japan, equaling the Beatles' record of four sold-out shows at Tokyo's Budokan. In the spring of 1978, the Japanese called for more KISS, and their favorite rock 'n' roll band played five additional sold-out Budokan concerts, topping anyone's record in the arena.

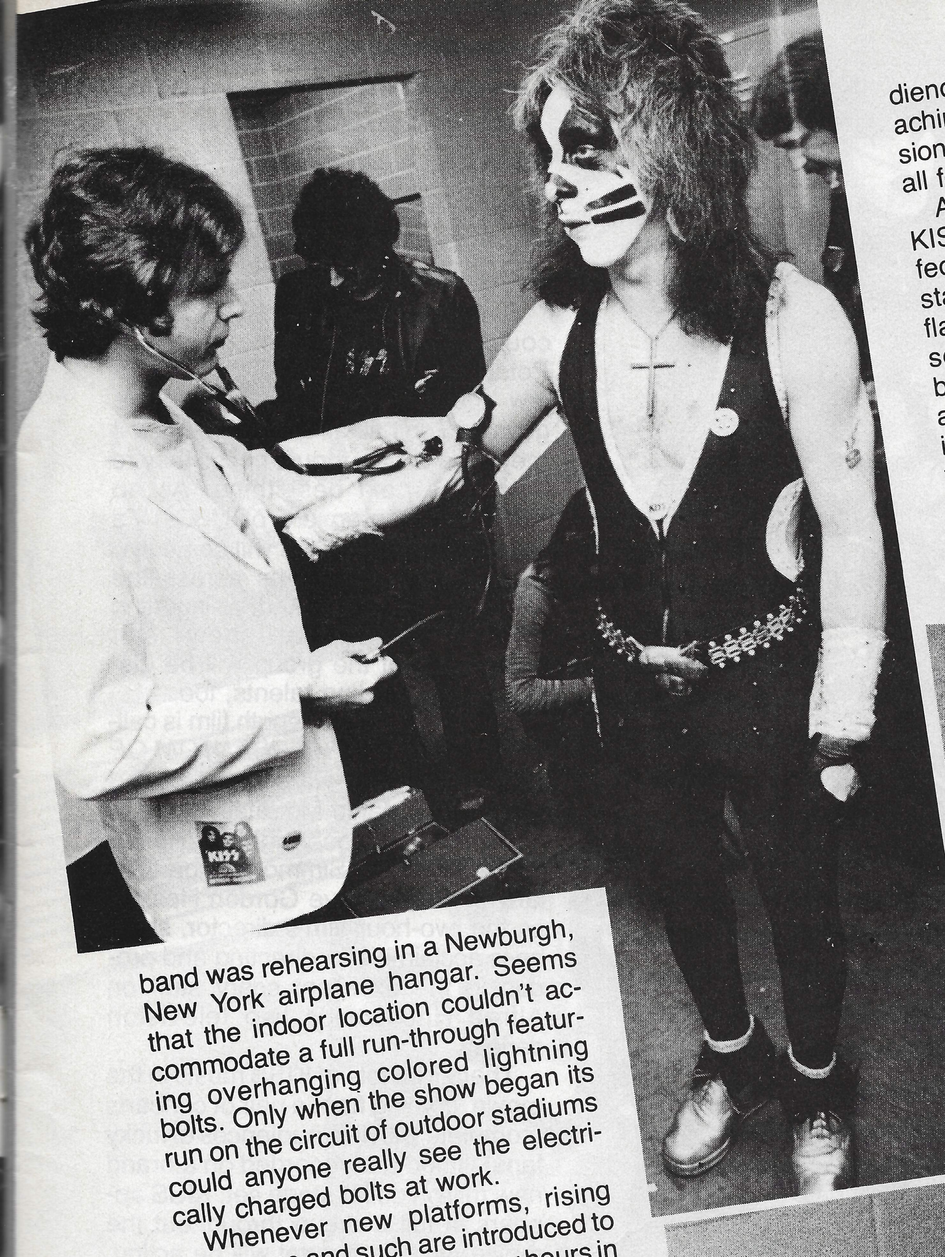
KISS' two live albums may capture a hint of the frenzy that sparks their concerts, but one must really see the show to understand the blazing spectacle of the KISS creation. It's not an evening meant for sitting and contemplation, but rather an insistent demand to cheer, rave and appreciate the most intricate stage set in all of pop music.

KISS plan their shows point by point. They know that their fans will gladly listen to some new songs as long as they get to hear the old favorites, too, so *Love Gun* and *Shock Me* share the stage with *Nothin' to Lose* and *Let Me Go Rock 'n' Roll.*

Every new tour brings a new set, usually costing more than the one it replaces. But the older special effects which KISS is infamous for, such as Gene's fire breathing and blood spitting, will never be taken away. The people responsible for the KISStravaganza, particularly Aucoin Management's creative genius, Sean Delaney, know that there are two indispensable pieces of a KISS show—namely KISS and their audience. Any alterations are made to please both.

Once in a while, the KISS stage planners devise an effect that's so overwhelming it creates logistical problems. That happened a few years ago on the **Destroyer** tour, when the

Before the band goes on stage everything is checked—from instruments to blood pressure



band was rehearsing in a Newburgh, New York airplane hangar. Seems that the indoor location couldn't accommodate a full run-through featuring overhanging colored lightning bolts. Only when the show began its run on the circuit of outdoor stadiums could anyone really see the electrically charged bolts at work.

Whenever new platforms, rising staircases and such are introduced to the show, KISS spends many hours in the hands of their choreographer. After all, it's not too difficult to imagine a disaster movie starting with Gene's big dragon toe catching on a loose step and bringing the house down in a most embarrassing way. To avoid both accidents and clumsiness, the KISS boys drill as strenuously as a cheerleading squad, until Gene and Paul can run up and down the new stage without a flaw. Their acrobatics are still a cause for bated breath, although Ace plays it a lot more cautiously and takes his time descending—he's not risking that guitar for anything!

No item in a KISS concert is left to chance. Under their choreographer's direction, the boys learned to swing back and forth with their instruments in unison, even with Peter poking his head over the drums and rocking in time. For almost every move the audience sees, there have been days of aching muscles for the group. Precision steps are pummeled into them, all for the sake of the show.

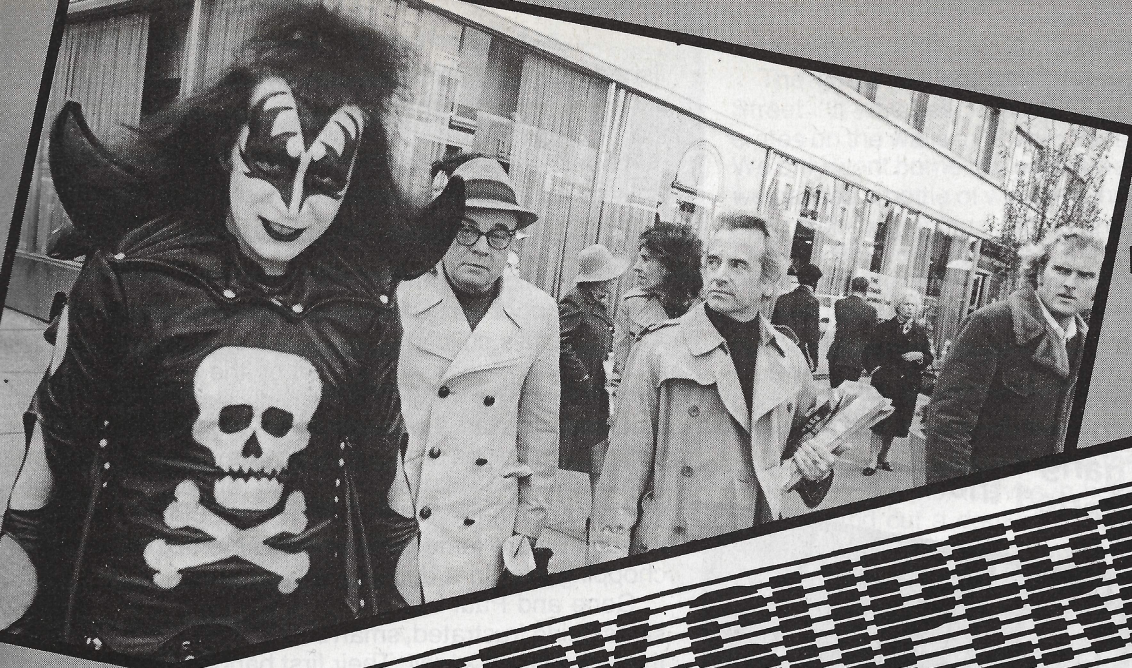
And it's universally agreed that in KISS' case, practice has made perfect. From England to the Far East, statues emit exotic lights and spew flames, the KISS Army banner descends from stage heaven, weird beams pinpoint Gene Simmons' lizard games, columns sink into nothingness like Atlantis, while new platforms reach into the sky on risers. KISS plays as many arenas as the biggest carnivals, and Barnum and Bailey couldn't have created a more elaborate evening.

KISS Bulletin... TV Movie In September

Every KISS fan wishes he or she could have Gene, Paul, Ace and Peter performing just for him and a few special friends. Of course, the guys couldn't fill all those requests if they lived to be a thousand, so they're doing the next best thing. As an extra-special premiere of NBC-TV's fall movie lineup, KISS will come into millions of living rooms across the U.S.A. and Canada. And, as if getting such a spectacular show isn't enough, all of the group will be displaying their acting talents, too.

KISS' first feature-length film is called *KISS MEETS THE PHANTOM OF THE PARK* and was filmed during May at the Magic Mountain Amusement park in Los Angeles. Horror movie fan Gene Simmons is particularly thrilled to have Gordon Hessler as the two-hour film's director, since he is acclaimed for directing and producing the excellent scary stuff on Alfred Hitchcock's two television series.

There'll be lots of KISS music in the movie, coming from a pair of concerts (complete with live audiences of lucky fans) filmed and recorded on a brand new million dollar stage set. KISS appears in full makeup throughout the movie, but the quartet will be acting, too, as they battle an army of evil cybernetic robots. Joseph Barbera, Executive Producer of the film, describes his extravaganza as "the first rock gothic mystery film for television," but however it's portrayed, *KISS MEETS THE PHANTOM OF THE PARK* is destined to be a shoe-in winner with every fan this September. Be sure to check your local newspaper for the movie's exact airdate and time in your city.



Kiss is an urban street show . . . look for them in your town soon!

NEW YORK SUPERBAND

When Paul Stanley's career fortunes had finally begun to rise with KISS, he spent many nights in his old Queens neighborhood. On his way home from a hot practice session or a really successful gig he'd pass little knots of teenagers hanging out in the street, and since he'd removed his makeup hours before, he was totally anonymous. But in his heart he carried the secret of KISS. "When I was angry," he remembered, "I'd look at those kids and feel like going, 'you know who I am?'"

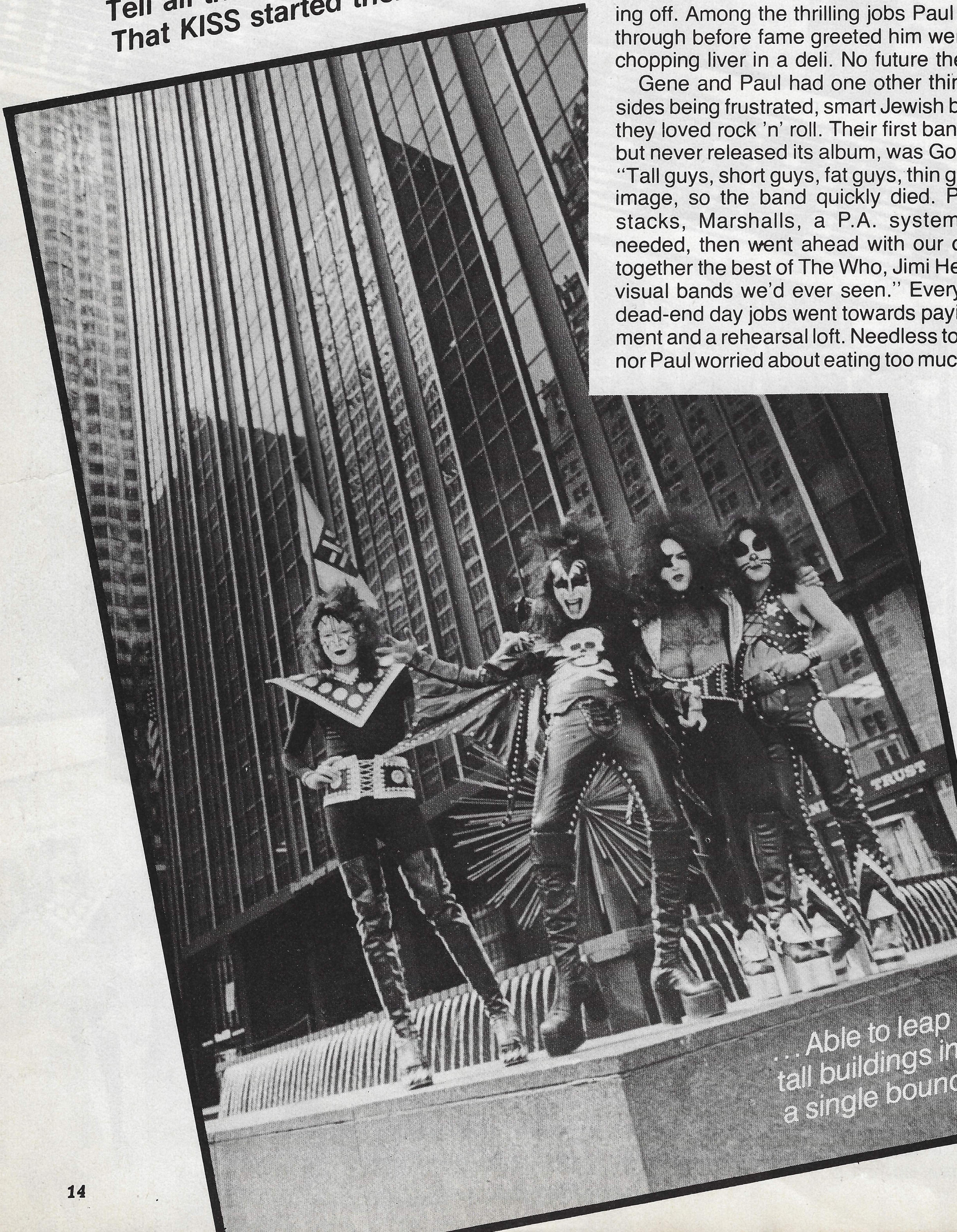
Becoming a superhero requires a lot of personal adjustment. In the case of KISS, it grouped the energies of four diverse personalities who had in common the fact that they never belonged anywhere else.

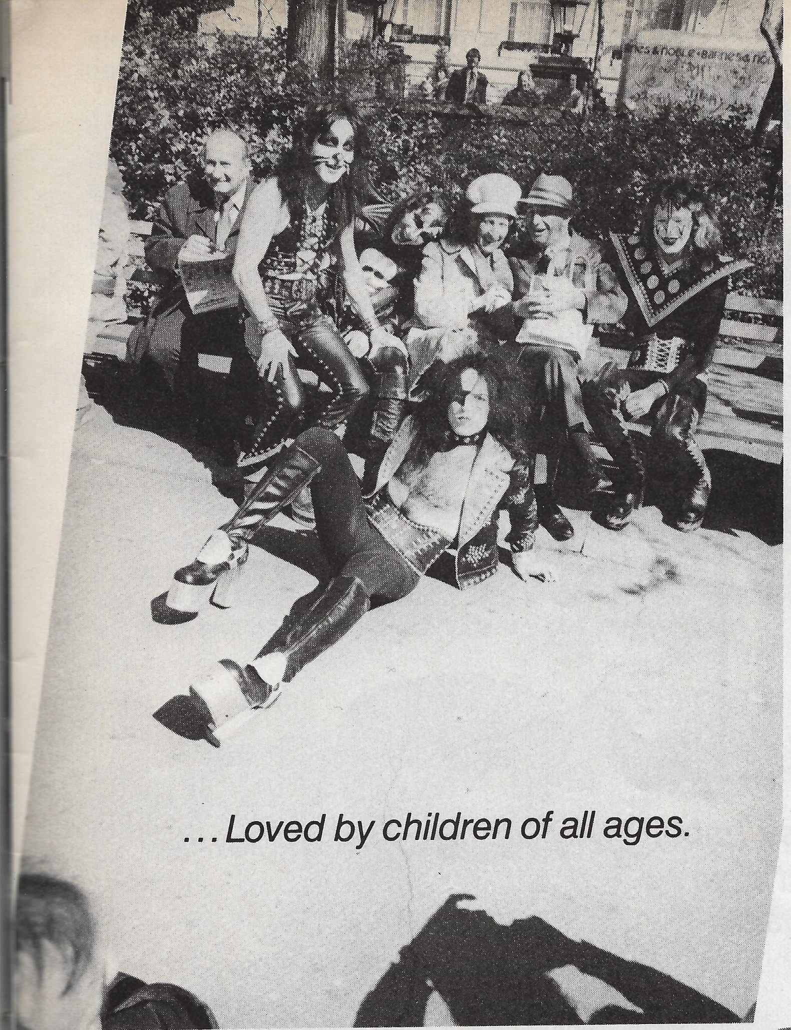
Taking a trip into the pasts of Ace, Gene, Peter and Paul, stretching about a decade back, one doesn't necessarily know the shape KISS' future will take, but it's evident that the ambitions born of frustration were already full-blown those ten long years ago. Clever Gene Simmons grew up half boy, half beast. He published his own horror and fan magazines while still in school in Queens and was always labeled class clown. He managed to get through College (Gene is no dumbbell) and lasted six months as a 6th grade teacher, until he realized that he had rock 'n' roll in his blood.

Gene looked up his Queens chum Paul Stanley, who had been suffering his own crisis. The only reason Paul stays so deliciously thin is because he starves himself. In his younger days, that was definitely not the case. Among Paul's childhood delusions was his self-image as class king—one not shared by the other students. Overweight and lonely, Paul vividly experienced adolescent years as the outsider looking in. In his specialized school, he drove the teachers crazy by being an underachiever—he had the smarts but preferred goofing off. Among the thrilling jobs Paul Stanley shlepped through before fame greeted him were taxi driving and chopping liver in a deli. No future there!

Gene and Paul had one other thing in common besides being frustrated, smart Jewish boys from Queens; they loved rock 'n' roll. Their first band, which recorded but never released its album, was Goulash, says Gene. "Tall guys, short guys, fat guys, thin guys. There was no image, so the band quickly died. Paul and I bought stacks, Marshalls, a P.A. system, everything we needed, then went ahead with our concept of putting together the best of The Who, Jimi Hendrix, all the loud, visual bands we'd ever seen." Every nickel from their dead-end day jobs went towards paying for their equipment and a rehearsal loft. Needless to say, neither Gene nor Paul worried about eating too much for quite a while.

Give my regards to Broadway
Remember me to Herald Square
Tell all the gang at 42nd Street
That KISS started there


...Able to leap tall buildings in a single bound!



. . . Loved by children of all ages.

The group did not have it easy in their loft on 23rd Street. "It was hell," Paul simply states. "We had egg crates on the walls to absorb the sound. We lived there. We only went home to sleep. It was so cold in the winter we passed a bottle of wine around to keep warm." Such optimistic beginnings led to the boys cruising down Queens Boulevard one day, trying to think of a name for their unlikely lineup. In his inimitable style, Gene suggested calling the band Fuck, absolutely a hot ticket. Fortunately, Paul thought about another of his favorite four letter words and came up with KISS, which everybody thought was a stroke of genius. And they were right!

Do-it-yourselfers to the last, the band made its own luck. They put themselves in hock to the Electric Lady Studios and cut a demo tape of their early songs, researched the names of press and record company people to invite to their gigs at the Daisy, Coventry and Hotel Diplomat, and even paid for printing the tickets to several showcases held in July and August, 1973.

"We printed our own posters, drew them ourselves," recalled Gene. "Peter knew a printer, I was working in an office (at *Vogue* magazine) and had access to postage and envelopes. We put together a little bio kit, pictures, posters, complimentary tickets. We sent those kits around to everybody, just blitzed the industry." Their dedication was enough to arouse the curiousity of TV producer/potential manager Bill Aucoin, who saw one KISS show at the Diplomat on August 10, 1973, started imagining new worlds for this unique band to conquer, and the rest, as they say, is KISStory.

When Gene and Paul saw the ad Peter Criss had placed in *Rolling Stone* magazine, they had a feeling this guy might be desperate enough to share a place in their vision. Peter had written, "drummer with eleven years experience will do ANYTHING to make it." After putting in time with various unsuccessful bands, Peter had been reduced to playing drums for a doo-wop, top 40 band on the Brooklyn bar route. Gene bombarded Peter with a slew of questions. "Do you have blond hair? Are you fat? Do you wear a beard? Are you opposed to wearing makeup? Do you look flashy? Do heads turn when you walk into a room, even though you look like a slob?" Peter was intrigued enough by Gene's nerve to invite the two to see him play. They became a trio.

Gene, Paul and Peter actually consider KISS to have been born at that moment, since the three guys started regular rehearsals, learning the songs which would become **Kiss** and **Hotter Than Hell.** A few months of practice taught the group they needed one final element, a man with a blazing guitar. For that last ingredient, they advertised in New York's *Village Voice,* sifted through over 60 pickers and picked Ace Frehley.

Peter Criss had ostracized himself as an alter boy by guzzling church wine on the sly. School and he didn't get along too well, which went double for Ace. Ace was, to put it gently, a hoodlum, preferring to hang out with a street gang outside Tollentine High School rather than sit inside the classroom. But Ace wasn't a mean sort, really; he just wanted to do two things—get to outer space and play guitar. If both could somehow be combined, so much the better. Auditioning for Peter, Gene and Paul, Ace's intensity and flying fingers settled his future.

This could happen to YOU!

DREAM DATE WITH KISS

"Hey, babe, what're ya doin' after the show?"

When her favorite radio station leaked the news about KISS' secret rehearsal place and time, Karen was ecstatic. For ever since she'd fallen in love with rock 'n' roll, she had fallen even more in love with KISS, and with Paul Stanley in particular. Her room became covered with posters of Paul and the group; she loaded up her wallet with a selection of Paul's dreamiest poses, and could sing line for line every KISS tune on which Paul took lead vocals. The day a new single or album was released was more fun than a holiday, and when the group came to her town, forget it. Karen was useless until she actually walked into the giant arena. She saw Paul waving as he hosted the show, and for an hour and a half she lived in KISS bliss.

Karen's friends all liked KISS and had the records, too, but they thought she was becoming a little off the wall over Paul. "I'm gonna meet him," she assured them, and didn't pay any attention to their laughs and disbelieving looks. When they asked, "Why should he bother to look at you even twice? He can go out with any girl in town," Karen paid it no mind and went back to plotting her campaign for the conquest of Paul Stanley.

KISS' concert that year had been set to begin at 9 p.m., and Karen was painting her "welcome back" banner when the radio broadcast mentioned the band's three o'clock rehearsal at an industrial loft across town. Ordinarily, KISS would have just gone to the arena at five to do their sound check, but this was the start of a new tour, and they had to be sure all their songs were in perfect form.

Before you could say *Room Service,* Karen whisked through finishing the banner, brushed her hair, got out her best jeans and jacket and caught the bus over to the factory district. She could hear the vibrant sound of KISS' music pouring through an upper-story window, but she immediately saw that she wasn't the only fan who'd heard the announcement. There were boys and girls everywhere, surrounding the building, and KISS' burly security guards weren't letting anybody pass. Karen was on the verge of tears—she'd never meet Paul like this!—but decided to wait out the set and at least hear a sneak session of all the new KISS songs.

She edged in close to the building, where a solid crowd of girls had linked arms to protect their position by the front door. "This is worse than pointless," Karen groaned, as she leaned against the side of the structure, trying hard not to think about anything except the wonderful sound of Paul's voice floating to street level. She felt as if she had been there forever, lost in a world of KISS.

The goodbye KISS that will last a lifetime. . . .

A creaking sound awakened Karen from her reverie. She looked to the right where four limousines were descending in a freight lift, each one carrying a member of KISS. Her eyes widened as Ace, Peter and Gene each waved to her, sealed in their black, boatlike cars, almost hidden through tinted windows.

By the time Paul's car got to the exit, Karen couldn't bear the tension and started to weep, calling Paul's name over and over. Paul ordered his driver to stop, stuck his head out the window and called, "Hey, what's wrong?" "Ooooh, it's really you; I'm so awful, I can't believe it, I look so stupid, when I waited for hours to see you," Karen gushed out in one breath. Replied Paul, the gallant knight, "But you don't look stupid, you look really nice. Here c'mon in and catch your breath." He opened the massive door for her, caught her arm and helped her inside. The girls who had been at the front door started chasing after the limos while Karen settled against a leather cushion and kept telling herself she was actually alone with Paul Stanley.

Paul asked to see the sign she had made, which read "Calling Dr. Love, Paul Stanley" and signed it right next to his name. He was as patient and good-looking as Karen had always dreamed, and explained that he invited her into his car because she hadn't been pushing with the crowd, and obviously cared about KISS very much. "How'd you like to hang around with us behind the scenes for a day?" he teased her. She practically fell into shock, barely managing to whisper her thanks.

Karen considered the rest of the afternoon and evening the best time of her life. She traveled with Paul to KISS' sound check, watching all their special effects in amazement. She'd never been in such a mammoth hall without an audience present, but KISS' thunderous chords filled up every space. Following the sound check, the band had a few hours to relax before the night's big show, and took Karen along to a communal dinner in their hotel's private dining room. Gene, Ace and Peter kidded Paul, "Hey, who's the local cutie?" Paul introduced Karen to the rest of the band, but he made sure they knew she was going to be with him that evening. Today Karen can't remember seeing a more lavish meal, although she was unable to eat more than a few bites.

After dinner, the band had to get ready for their show and went off with the makeup crew. "Remember," Paul confided in Karen, "you know what we really look like, but if you care about me, you won't tell anybody, even your best friend." Karen promised him immediately, thinking to herself how much cuter he was without his "super-lover" makeup and that finally she knew KISS' biggest secret. Fascinated as the group's faces were transformed into KISS, she later watched them put on a spectacular from a seat Paul gave her in the front row.

"I'll meet you after the show," Paul promised her, and sure enough, Karen was able to go backstage once the last smoke bomb had exploded. Paul grinned at her and said, "Well, did you like it?" Karen's feelings about the show went far beyond words. She knew every song Paul sang was meant just for her. "We've got to get to our next gig early tomorrow," Paul told her, and gave his limo driver her address. "I hope you enjoyed being with the band." He escorted her round to say goodbye to the rest of the band and then led her into a quiet corner. "I really liked being with you today, Karen," Paul said, as he took her hand. "One big reason I enjoy traveling around with KISS is for the chance to meet special girls like you." Paul kissed her goodbye and promised he'd call as soon as KISS came back her way.

After Karen's whole family saw her step out of Paul Stanley's limousine, they realized Paul would no longer be the boy of her dreams. He'd become very, very *real.*

PARTY WITH KISS

KISS parties often seem more like multi-national bar mitzvahs than rock 'n' roll craziness, and are always planned to be affairs a whole family will appreciate

If you were in KISS and spent endless weeks rock 'n' rolling all night, when it came time to celebrate, you'd want to do it in grand style. A spectacular show demands equal sound and fury on birthdays, holidays and other special occasions. Kiss knows that many people deserve a share of the credit for getting the band to the top. So for the families, friends, managerial staff and music business associates, KISS throws parties, notably at Christmas.

Being from New York, KISS usually has the biggest fetes in the New York metropolitan area and plan them around the dates of their live appearances. It's only slightly easier to crash one than it is to break inside Fort Knox, and when a thoughtless New York newspaper columnist leaked the details of KISS' 1977 Xmas extravaganza,

Ace and Peter on their way home with their wives after a concert

Paul's already home—let the games begin!

the wails of disappointed fun seekers could be heard for blocks. But step through those magical doors and you're into a perpetual wonderland, a total excursion of fantasy, fine food and fancy frocks—as well as a close look at the KISS clan.

KISS is fortunate to have families who completely support their wild antics, and who did so long before the band started generating fabulous income. Not a show goes by where a block of seats isn't solidly packed with teeny faces, bald heads and ladies in conservative cocktail dresses—the oldest and youngest members of Ace, Gene, Paul and Peter's families. "At the first show we sang *Deuce,*" Gene recalled a few years ago, "and about the second line it says 'Get Up!' and I saw Paul's father get up, folding his hands like he was saying, 'Yes, I will!'"

Given Ace's Irish heritage, Peter's Italian background and Gene and Paul's Jewish roots, KISS families share a long-standing tradition of enjoying themselves at large gatherings. KISS parties often seem more like multinational bar mitzvahs than rock 'n' roll craziness, and are always planned to be affairs a whole family will appreciate. One year, KISS held their post-concert bash at a midtown Manhattan swim club that was just too small to hold the 300 plus guests, trays of crabmeat and lobster, and open swimming pool and four seven-foot-tall rock superstars. While younger folk pushed each other into the pool and mashed food tables upstairs, a dozen KISS grandmas and great aunts munched and yakked downstairs in the coatroom, just as if they were chatting on their favorite Bronx park bench.

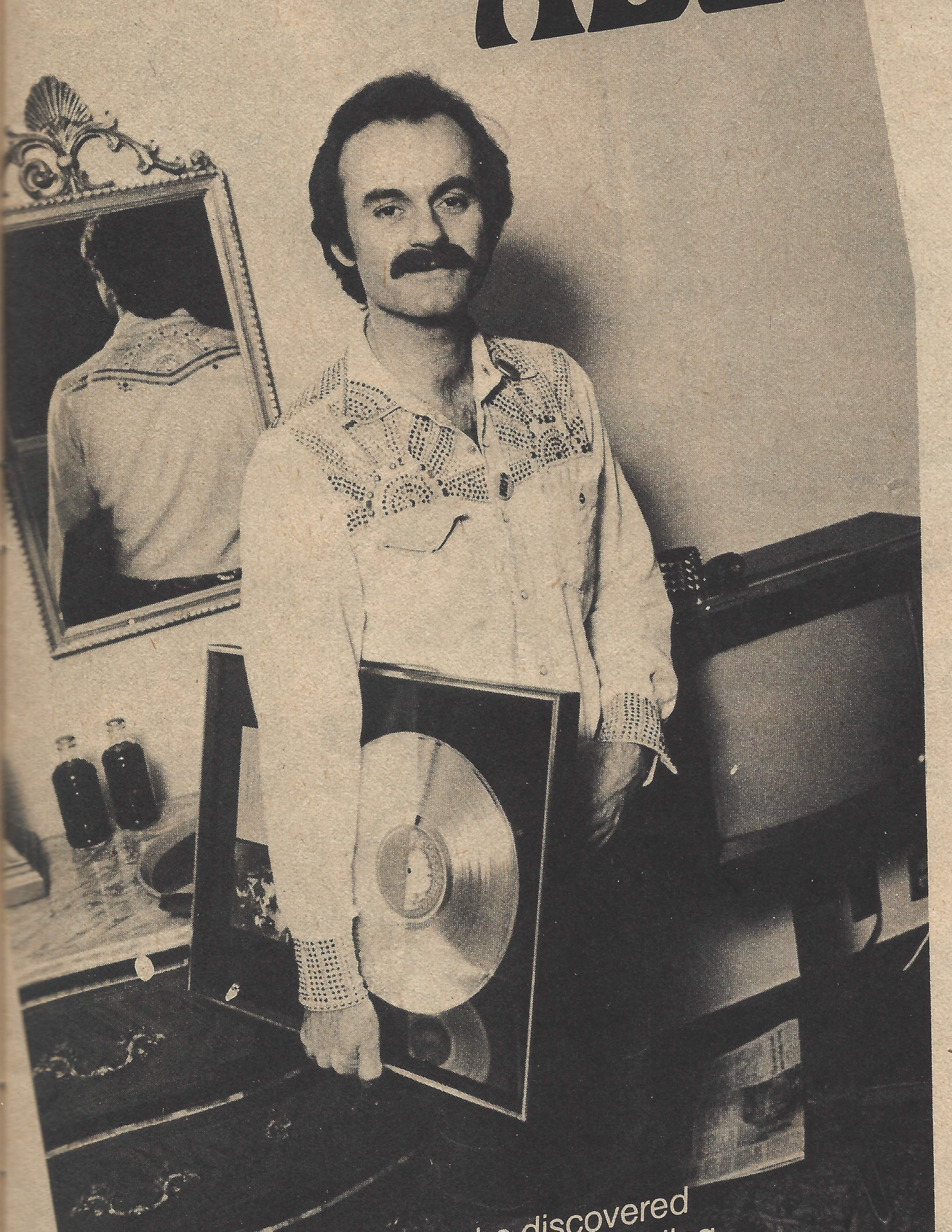
A midsummer KISS party could have been tailor-made for the youngest cousins. What can you do with a moldy old outdoor city stadium in the middle of New Jersey? Why, turn the backstage mud into an Italian carnival midway, of course. Guests could scarf up sausage and pizza while they spinned the wheel of fortune. When KISS' set began, family and friends were whisked up to a special viewing platform where they got a close look at all the stage machinery.

KISS' management company has the kind of folks who feel that each party they throw has to outdo the one before it, and the most recent KISS fete was right in that spirit. At least 500 people were invited to say "Merry KISSmas" to the band at the plush Harkness Ballet School near New York's Fifth Avenue. The school was transformed into a winter wonderland. Wreaths of pine filled the air with a delicious scent, candy canes and streamers hung from every available post and several Santa Clauses ho-ho-ho'd into the night. While the junior KISS relatives were underfoot laughing and playing, their parents could either dine to soft music upstairs or rock at a downstairs disco equipped with glittering balls and mirrored walls. When KISS made the grand entrance, dressed in shining reds and whites, heads high above the crowd, it was as if everyone's hoped-for holiday gift packages had come to life. KISS and friends danced till dawn, enjoying their hard-earned rewards as the most stupendous rock 'n' roll band in the world.

Boy, life sure is hard on the road—the same old grind, town after town

If you missed any of the gang's LPs you can find out about it here.

ALL THE FACTS ABOUT THE WAX



Bill Aucoin, the man who discovered Kiss and now manages them, holding one of the band's many gold records

KISS

Casablanca (NBLP 7001); released February, 1974
Produced by Kenny Kerner and Richard Wise at Bell Sound, N.Y.

Strutter
Nothin' to Lose
Firehouse
Cold Gin
Let Me Know
Deuce
Love Theme From Kiss
100,000 Years
Black Diamond

All songs by KISS
Certified: Gold

HOTTER THAN HELL

Casablanca (NBLP 7006); released October, 1974
Produced by Kenny Kerner and Richie Wise at Village Recorder, L.A.

Got to Choose
Parasite
Goin' Blind
Hotter Than Hell
Let Me Go Rock 'n' Roll
All the Way
Watchin' You
Mainline
Comin' Home
Strange Ways

All songs by KISS
Certified: Gold

DRESSED TO KILL

Casablanca (NBLP 7016); released March, 1975
Produced by Neil Bogart and KISS at Electric Lady Studios, N.Y.

Room Service
Two Timer
Ladies in Waiting
Getaway
Rock Bottom
C'Mon and Love Me
Anything for My Baby
She
Love Her All I Can
Rock 'n' Roll All Nite

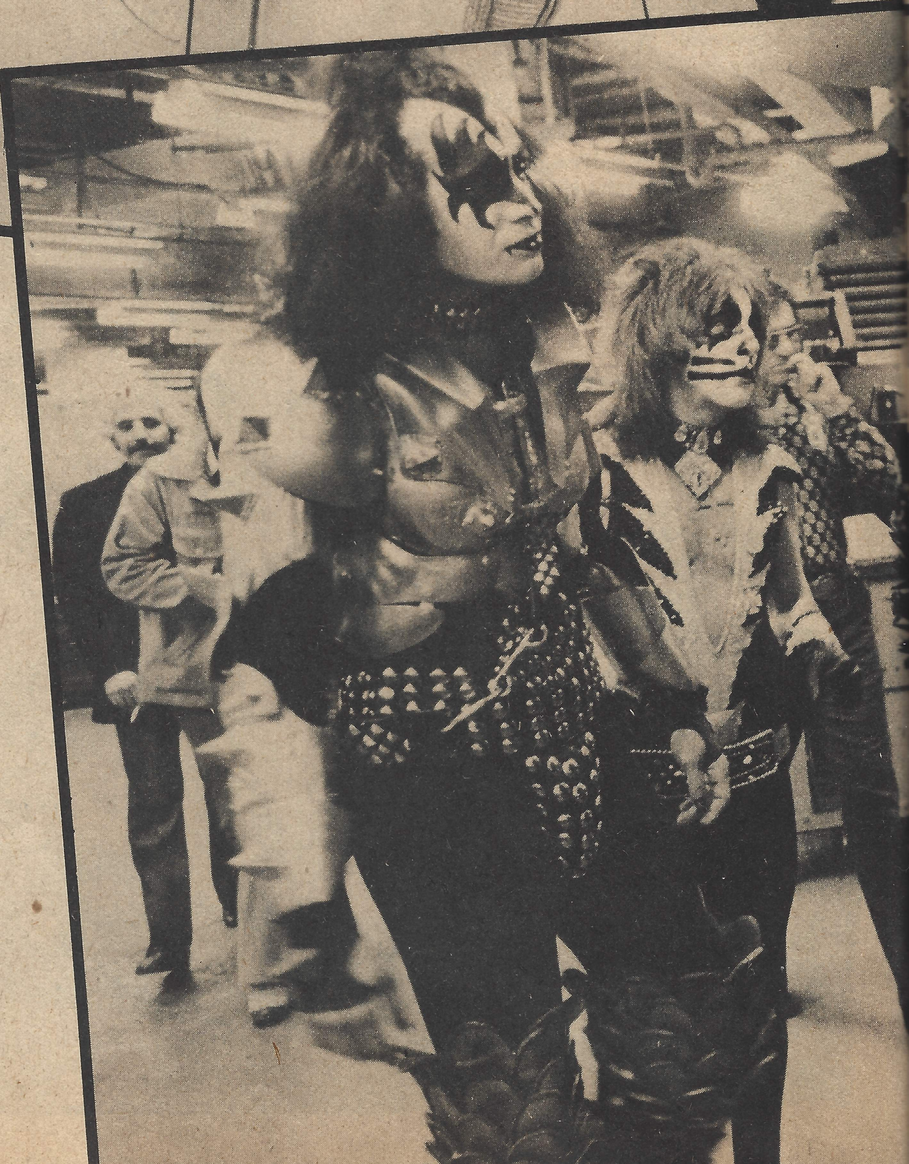
All songs by KISS
Certified: Gold

KISS ALIVE!

Casablanca (NBLP 7020); released September, 1975 (double LP)
Produced and engineered on location by Eddie Kramer, mixed at Electric Lady Studios, N.Y.

Deuce
Strutter
Got to Choose
Hotter Than Hell
Firehouse
Nothin' to Lose
C'mon and Love Me
Parasite
She
Watchin' You
100,000 Years
Black Diamond
Rock Bottom
Cold Gin
Rock 'n' Roll All Nite
Let Me Go Rock 'n' Roll

All songs by KISS
Certified: Double Platinum



DESTROYER

Casablanca (NBLP 7025); released March, 1976
Produced by Bob Ezrin at Record Plant Studios, N.Y.

Detroit Rock City
King of the Night Time World
God of Thunder
Great Expectations
Flaming Youth
Sweet Pain
Shout It Out Loud
Beth
Do You Love Me

All songs by KISS
Certified: Double Platinum

THE ORIGINALS

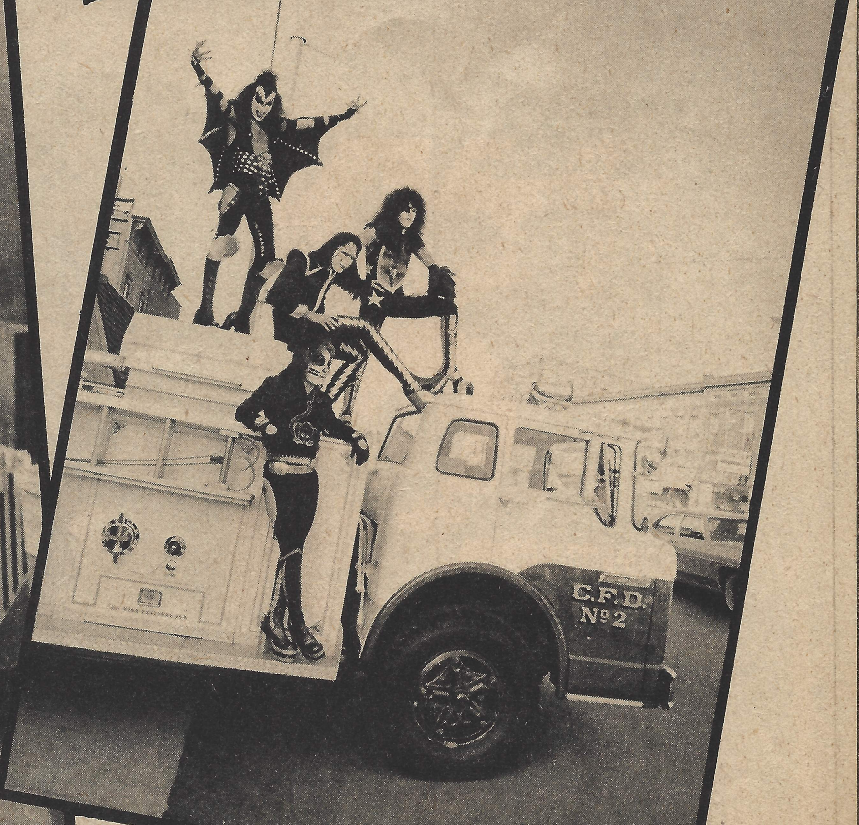
Casablanca (NBLP 7032); released July, 1976
Triple record reissue of **KISS, HOTTER THAN HELL** and **DRESSED TO KILL** in special portfolio jacket

ROCK 'N' ROLL OVER

Casablanca (NBLP 7037); released November, 1976
Produced and engineered by Eddie Kramer at Record Plant Studios, N.Y.

I Want You
Take Me
Calling Dr. Love
Ladies Room
Baby Driver
Love 'Em and Leave 'Em
Mr. Speed
See You in Your Dreams
Hard Luck Woman
Makin' Love

All songs by KISS
Certified: Platinum



LOVE GUN

Casablanca (NBLP 7057); released
June, 1977
Produced by KISS and Eddie
Kramer at Record Plant Studios, N.Y.

- *I Stole Your Love*
- *Christine Sixteen*
- *Got Love for Sale*
- *Shock Me*
- *Tomorrow and Tonight*
- *Love Gun*
- *Hooligan*
- *Almost Human*
- *Plaster Caster*
- *Then She Kissed Me*

All songs by KISS except *Then She Kissed Me* by Jeff Barry-Ellie Greenwich-Phil Spector
Certified: Platinum

KISS ALIVE II!

Casablanca (NBLP 7076); released
October, 1977 (double LP)
Produced by KISS and Eddie
Kramer live at the L.A. Forum, mixed
at Electric Lady Studios, N.Y.

- *Detroit Rock City*
- *King of the Night Time World*
- *Ladies Room*
- *Makin' Love*
- *Love Gun*
- *Calling Dr. Love*
- *Christine Sixteen*
- *Shock Me*
- *Hard Luck Woman*
- *Tomorrow and Tonight*
- *I Stole Your Love*
- *Beth*
- *God of Thunder*
- *I Want You*
- *Shout It Out Loud*
- *All American Man*
- *Rockin' in the U.S.A.*
- *Larger Than Life*
- *Rocket Ride*
- *Any Way You Want It*

All songs by KISS except *Any Way You Want It* by Dave Clark
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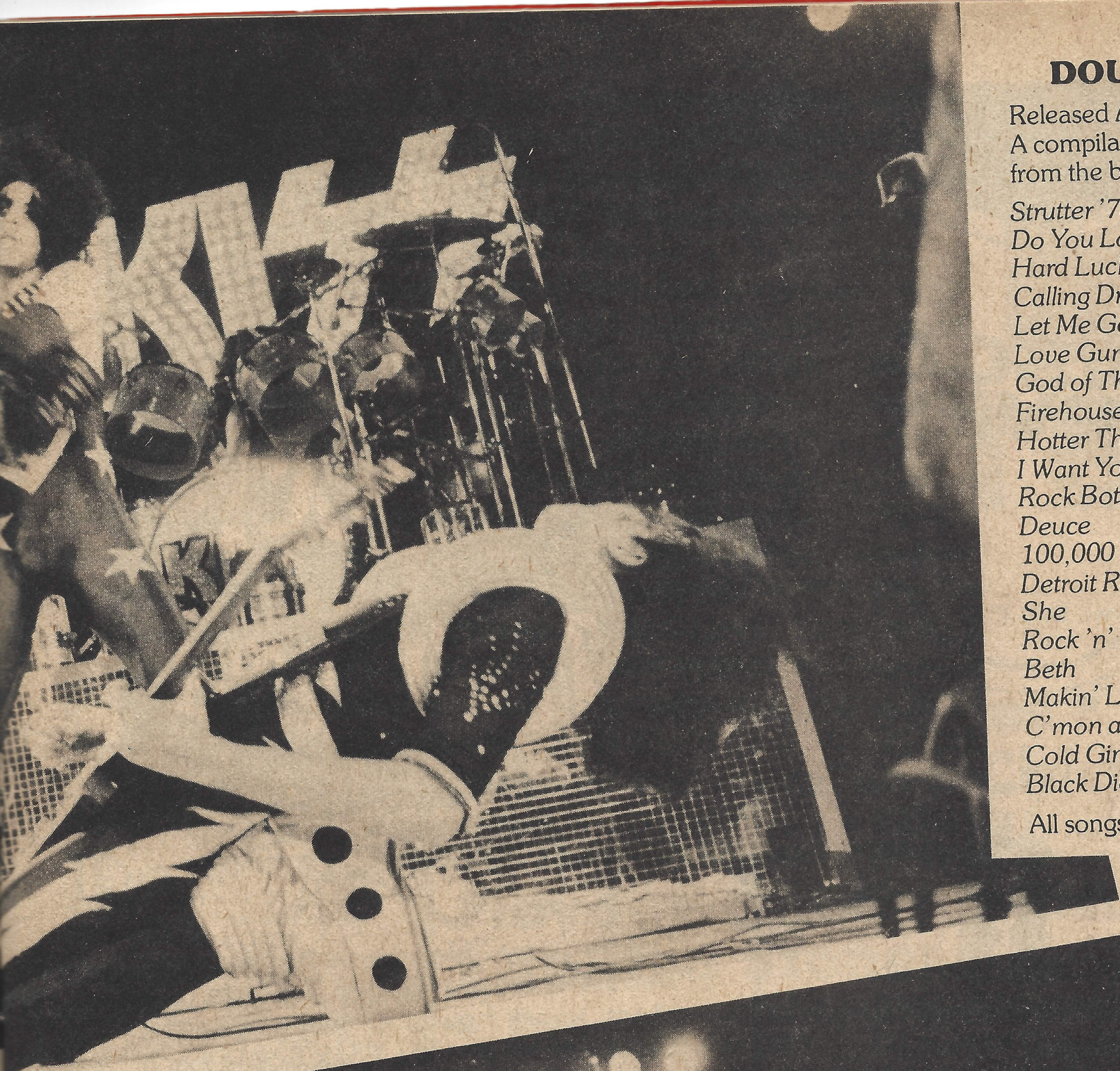

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Released April, 1978 (double LP)
A compilation of favorite KISS cuts from the beginning to the present

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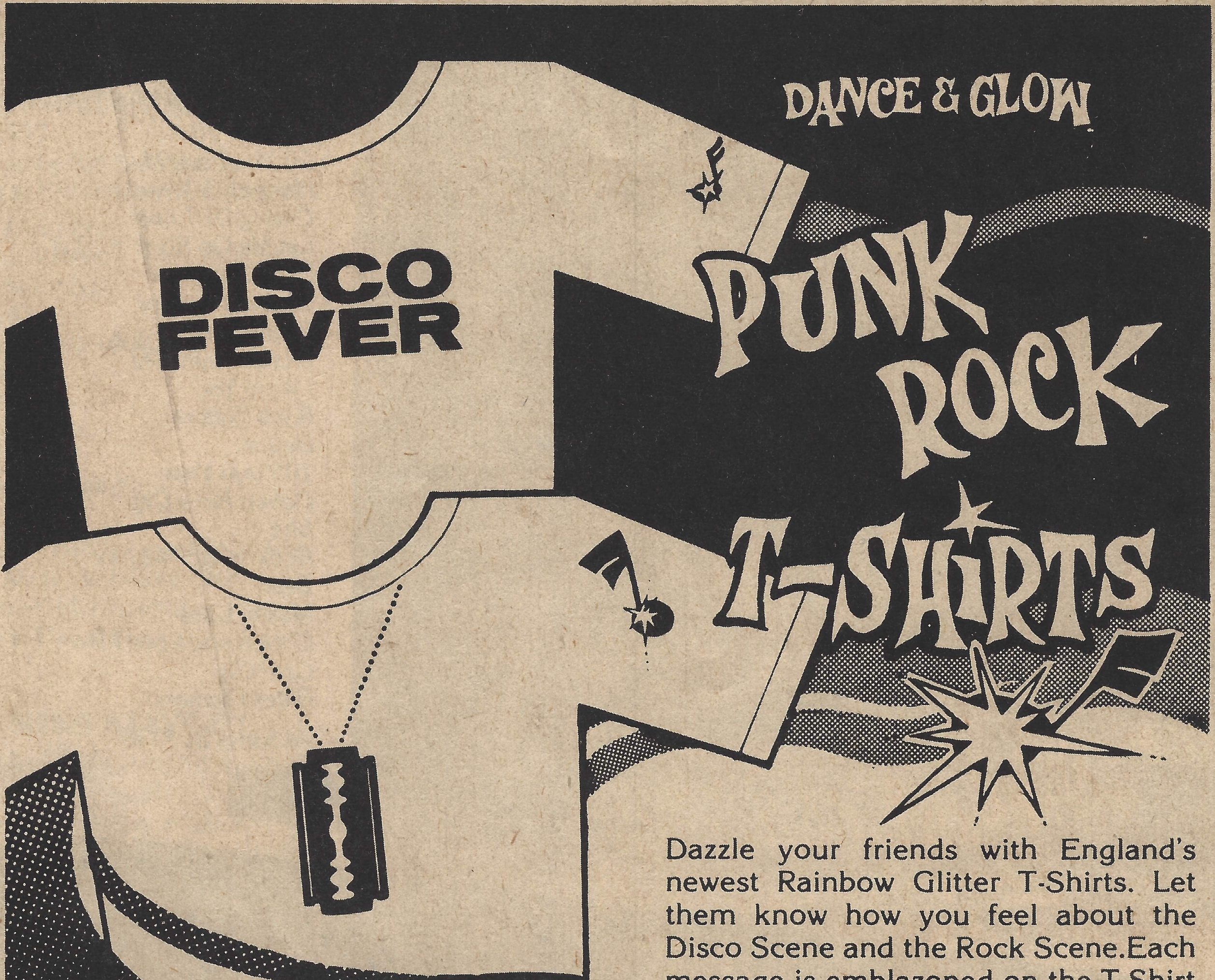
Hard Luck Woman
Calling Dr. Love
Let Me Go Rock 'n' Roll
Love Gun
God of Thunder
Firehouse
Hotter Than Hell
I Want You
Rock Bottom
Deuce
100,000 Years
Detroit Rock City
She
Rock 'n' Roll All Nite
Beth
Makin' Love
C'mon and Love Me
Cold Gin
Black Diamond

All songs by KISS



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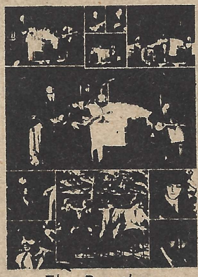

The Beatles

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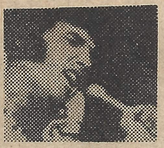

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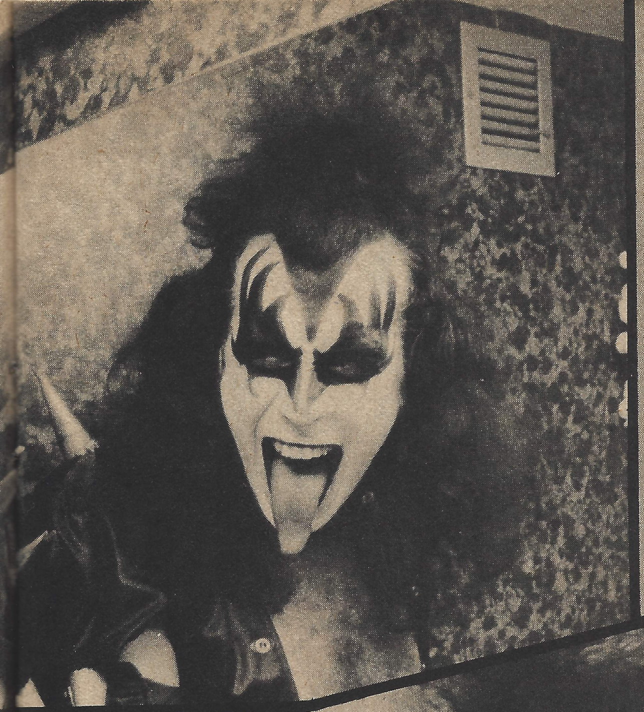
A PRIVATE PEEK INTO THE DRAGON'S LAIR

As the chill night settles over a cloudy Manhattan sky, deep within a subterranean chamber a creature stirs. It throws back the weedy bedcovers, pulls on its plated armor and scaly boots and rises to a horrifying eight-foot-plus stature. It moves slowly, but with great deliberation through the grey and dank cave, consumed with thoughts of a satisfying meal—blood ala carte, perhaps. Hunger drives it out to stalk unwary travelers through a nearby park. Finding suitable prey, it leaps upon the victim and hastens back to the deeply hidden corridors.

Well, close but no cigar. Although Gene Simmons' overactive imagination might conjure up a scary dwelling place on those days when he wants to get away from all the craziness of being in KISS, Gene's true home is up in the clouds rather than beneath the ground. And though there's no mistaking that his posh quarters are the home of a rock 'n' roll star, there's nothing more horrifying in the refrigerator than a container of orange juice, which Gene sniffs, making sure it hasn't mutated in the time KISS had been out of town.

All four members of KISS call New York their home. Even after the gold records and big dollars started to pour in, they remained loyal to the Apple. Ace and Peter, KISS' two married fellows, purchased luxurious homes for their families just outside the city limits, while Gene and Paul, fun-loving bachelors, keep pads with every convenience right in the center of the action. Gene figures that anyone who can get through the artillery of security protecting his building deserves to have a peek around, but finding Gene is not something done by rifling through the phone book. He's carefully tucked away with one of many false names and a closely guarded unlisted number. Let's just place him in a towering penthouse duplex with a spectacular view of the most expensive neighborhoods around.

The fortunate few who pass Checkpoint Charlie at the building's entrance fly up, up and away in a gold-tone elevator and are pointed to a



door in an anonymous, very quiet hallway.

The buzzer doesn't chime out a KISS melody, yet Gene answers the door, towering in black leather boots, jeans whose legs go on forever, and a delicately embroidered kimono, one of the many souvenirs received in Japan. He pours a glass of the aforementioned O.J., carefully steps around the cartons loaded with KISS magazine covers from around the world and laughs. "This place is furnished in Early Hotel," he says. KISS is away more often than home, and the gold and platinum records, gifts from fans, and crates of love letters threaten to pour over Gene's armchairs and sofas.

A visitor is quickly shown around the living room, with its perilously high outdoor terrace, and invited to select a videotape from dozens piled around a two- by three-foot high Advent viewing screen. Whether it's any KISS concert in the world, a Japanese TV special filmed during their first tour, or a load of cartoons, monster movies or melodramas, Gene's got a program to suit any taste. Thanks to his Sony Betamax recording system he's able to record and watch his favorites over and over—he can usually beat the actors to their lines. Gene goes wild over movies like *The Seventh Voyage of Sinbad, The Most Dangerous Game, Island of Lost Souls, Nosferatu, Metropolis, King Kong* and *Son of Kong*—a monster free-for-all, the perfect choice for a lizard king.

Where does Gene go to get away from it all? Just follow the trail of blood and fire to find out!

Reluctantly, Gene drags himself away from the set and pokes through stacks of mementos from the road. He mysteriously mentions a scrapbook filled with pictures of ladyfriends accumulated on tour, but wisely decides to keep his private life his own business, and switches to the subject of rock 'n' roll. There are records haphazardly piled into a closet, and Gene dives into the stack for inspiration when creating the newest KISS smash hit. Like so many other top stars, some of Gene's favorites are the American and British groups of the 1960s whose rhythms and catchy tunes paved the way for KISS. After all, two of the KISS album highlights are the remake of the Crystals' *Then He Kissed Me* and the Dave Clark Five's *Any Way You Want It.*

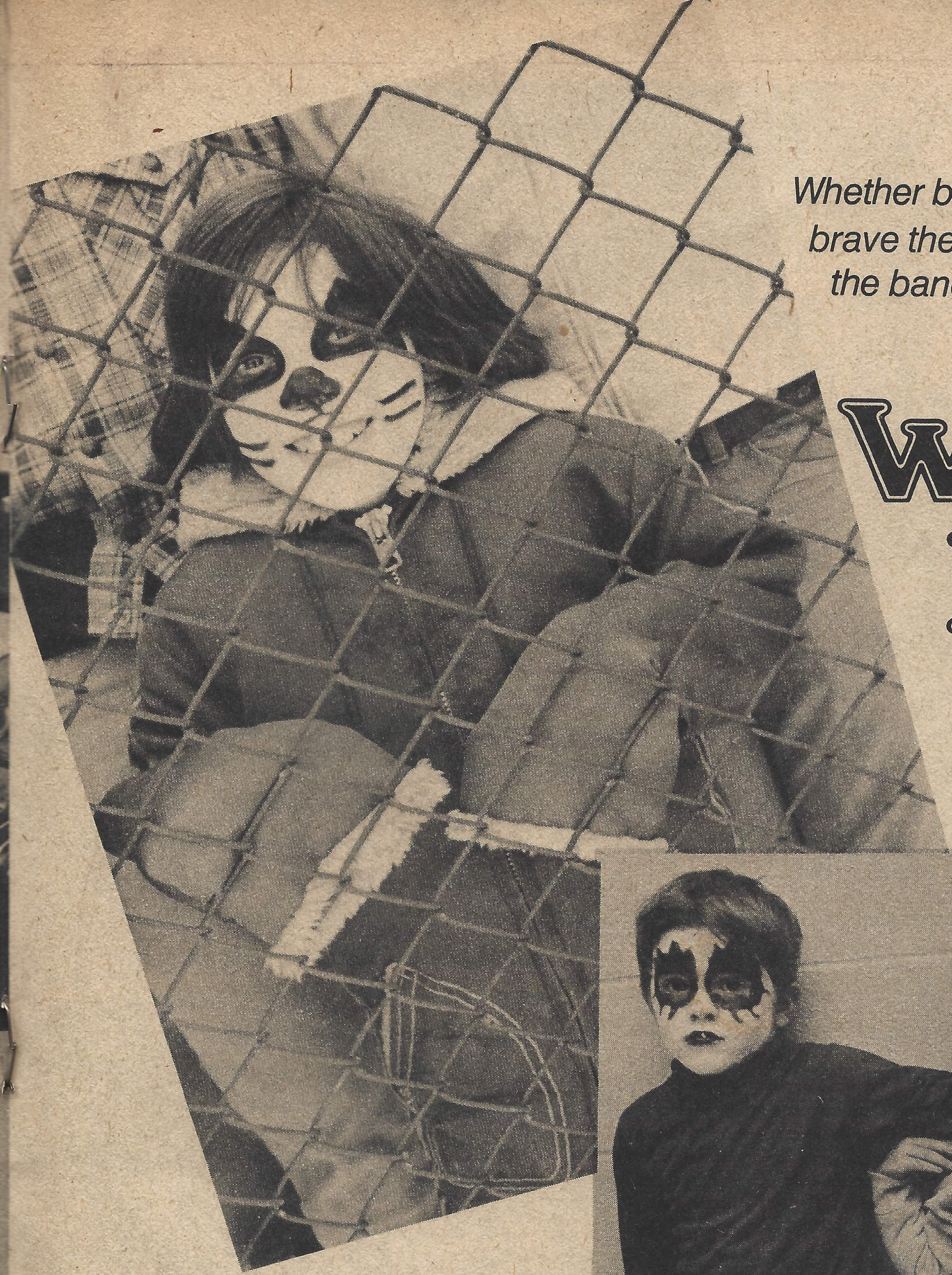
Gene gives us a surprise, though, when he lifts out a small box of British 45s and displays all the punk-rock records of the Sex Pistols, Clash, Damned and Stranglers. KISS is at the top of the rock lineup, and don't have

When we last saw Gene he was cruising down Broadway to Madison Square Garden—on the way he killed three pigeons, robbed a hot dog stand and picked up two young chicks

to pay attention to anybody else, but they're interested in every new style of music that comes along and gets fans, and the "new wave" sound is Gene's favorite.

KISS' many trophies line one wall of Gene's spare room, sharing space with the pinball and pachinko machines he loves to play. There'd be enough awards to fill up a whole house if Gene hung up everything, but when he's at home, it's usually not for long and he'd rather relax than moon over his achievements. "I've got to have a place where I can get away from people and ringing telephones," he sighs, and indeed, the only call all afternoon was from his road manager, double-checking the evening schedule.

Before the visitor leaves, Gene pulls out a funny greeting card that gets an honored place on the kitchen table. It's from his mom and is written in Hungarian. Gene translates the story of how she'd gotten all her friends to watch her famous son on a recent television special. We know Gene's a nice boy who loves his mom—even if his stage face isn't quite the image of the boy she raised!



Whether behind bars or at a lineup, KISSkids brave the elements to get a glimpse of the band

WHY I LOVE KISS

Two years ago, the assistant coach of the Cadillac, Michigan, High School football team wrote to tell KISS about the special Homecoming Week tribute to the group his team had planned. The team's defensive unit, formerly a losing bunch, started calling themselves, "KISS Defense" and won seven out of nine games in the season. All of their parade floats would relate to KISS. The school dance would feature nonstop KISS music. In short, the student body of Cadillac High knew that KISS was tops for them, and wanted to let the band in on those feelings.

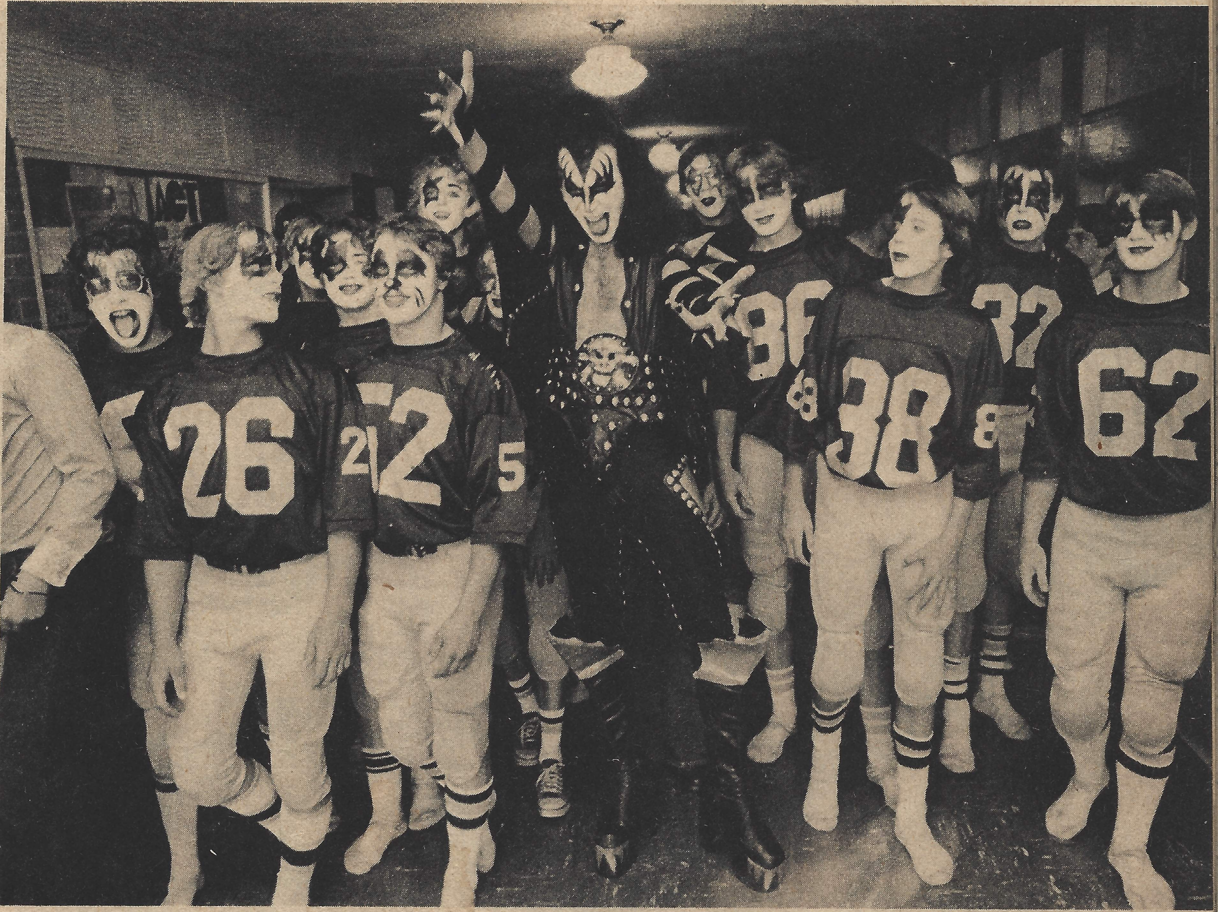
Were they ever surprised when KISS, together with their whole entourage and stage crew, personally visited Cadillac and made Homecoming

You've got to be a football hero
to have a chance with a beautiful girl

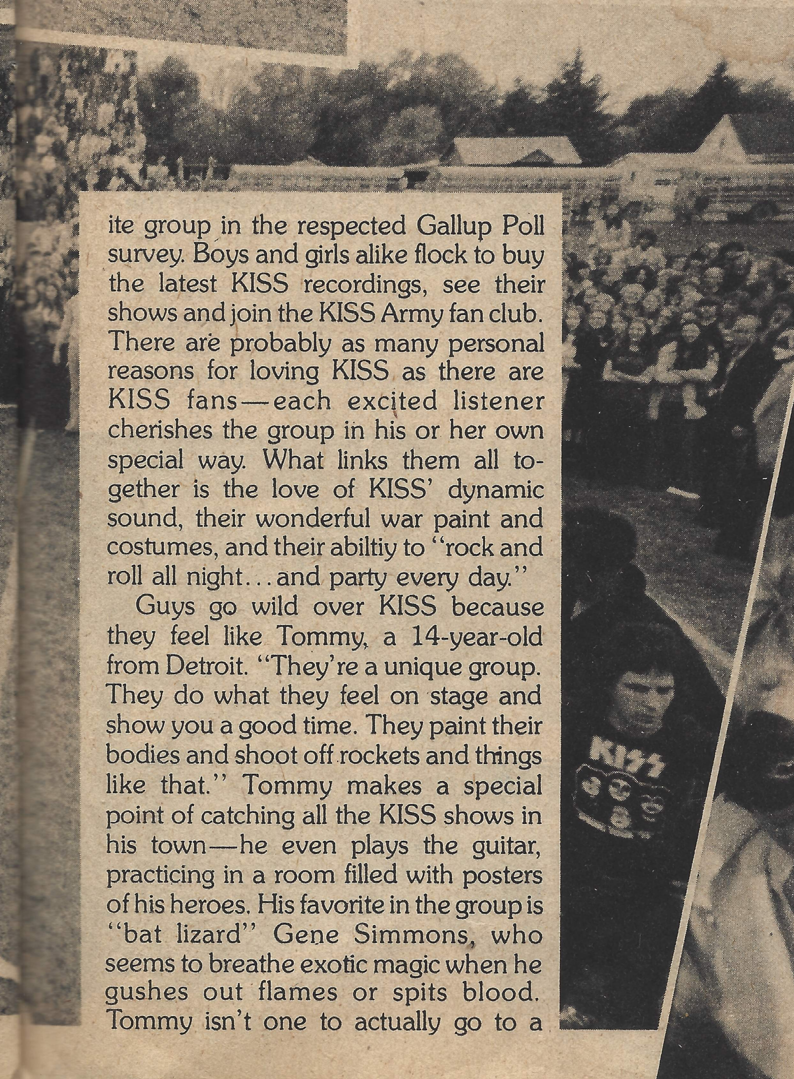
Week one continuous, never-to-be-forgotten party. Students, faculty, parents, even members of the town painted their faces KISS style. The Cadillac Fire Department (as in *Firehouse*) posed for snapshots with the group. KISS played a memorable concert in the High School gym complete with flaming statues, smoke bombs and colored lightning bolts. For old and young, thanks to the magic of their favorite rock 'n' roll band, the generation gap was smoothed over by a medley of KISS hits.

How much did Cadillac, Michigan love KISS? Said the school's principal, "For years we have been trying to unite the student body and the faculty... KISS accomplished this in one night." When rockers like KISS get honored with the keys to the city, as they were in Cadillac, it's proof that fans can be of any age and still be thrilled by the band's explosive magic.

Most of KISS' fans are young people, the people who voted KISS their favor-



Imagine, if you can, Gene as coach of your football team, with the defensive line painted in Kiss colors



ite group in the respected Gallup Poll survey. Boys and girls alike flock to buy the latest KISS recordings, see their shows and join the KISS Army fan club. There are probably as many personal reasons for loving KISS as there are KISS fans—each excited listener cherishes the group in his or her own special way. What links them all together is the love of KISS' dynamic sound, their wonderful war paint and costumes, and their abiltiy to "rock and roll all night... and party every day."

Guys go wild over KISS because they feel like Tommy, a 14-year-old from Detroit. "They're a unique group. They do what they feel on stage and show you a good time. They paint their bodies and shoot off rockets and things like that." Tommy makes a special point of catching all the KISS shows in his town—he even plays the guitar, practicing in a room filled with posters of his heroes. His favorite in the group is "bat lizard" Gene Simmons, who seems to breathe exotic magic when he gushes out flames or spits blood. Tommy isn't one to actually go to a

Cadillac got the treat of a lifetime when Paul showed up to lead the Clubfoot Marching Band

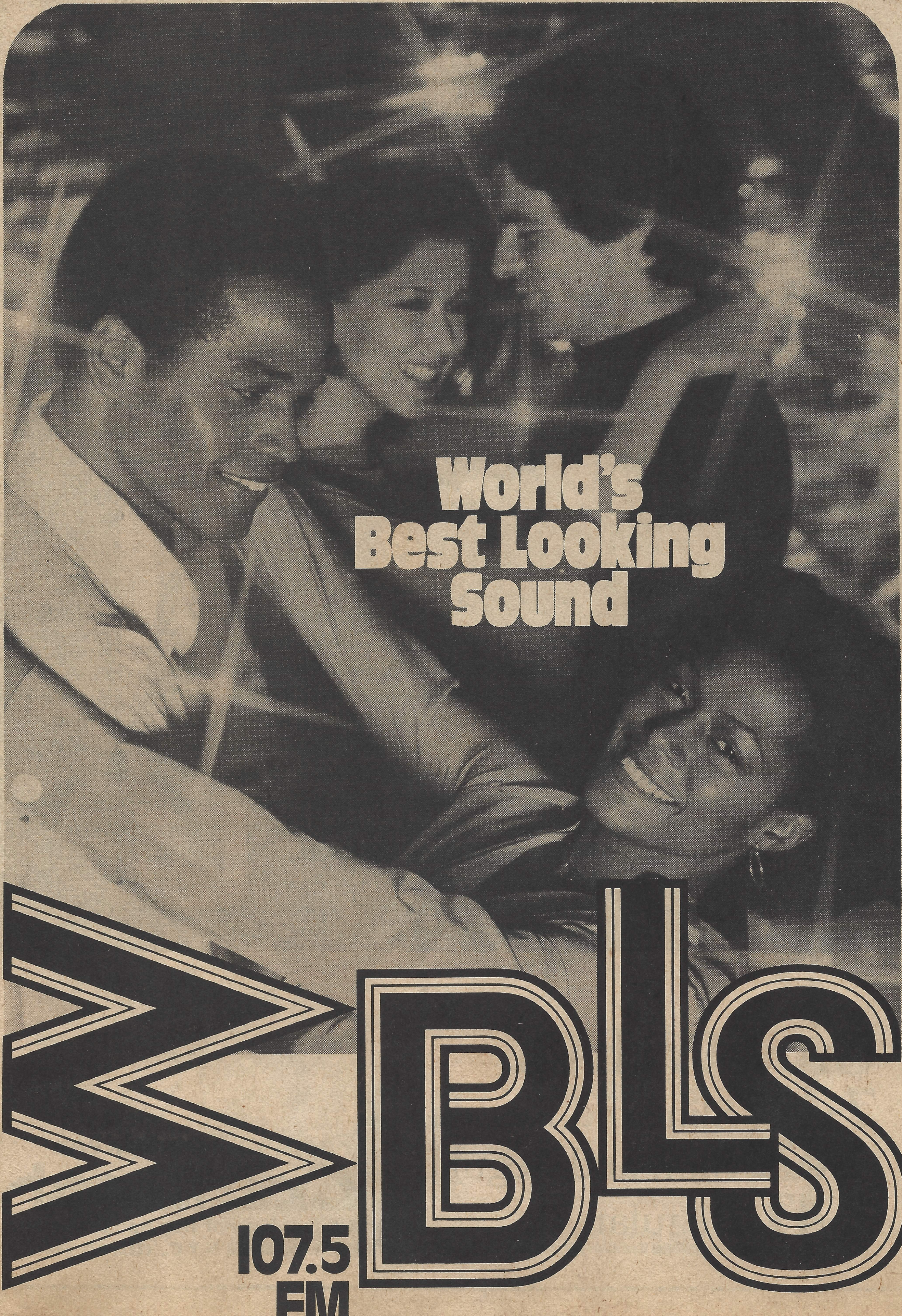
KISS show with his face made up, but he started growing his hair just like Gene's and mastered all the KISS tunes as soon as his parents bought him that first electric guitar.

"I used to read lots of Marvel comics a couple of years ago," Tommy says, proudly showing off his copy of the KISS comic book. "These guys are like the ultimate rock 'n' roll band—bigger than any ordinary band, with their costumes and freaky boots. And when they get up on that stage and Peter's drums go crazy and the guitars boom out of those giant amps, I wish I could just jump right inside the music, and be up there with them, wailing away."

Melanie is from Houston. One of her girlfriends dressed up just like Ace Frehley the last time that KISS came to town and lots of photographers took pictures of her in the arena. Melanie's only been to see KISS that one time, and she got the tickets as her 13th birthday present. But Melanie's been buying as many KISS singles and albums as she could save from her allowance, and her room looks like "cat city"—for her love of Peter "Catman" Criss. "Peter's the littlest one in the group," she sighs, "and I just love his whiskers! He works so hard on the show, especially when he does that incredible drum solo on *Black Diamond* and his platform gets shot up into space. Of course, I love everyone in KISS, but I like to think that Peter would be easy for me to talk with—if I wouldn't faint first! Sometimes, when I get bored in class, I look out the window and imagine seeing them running down the street and into my school. They'd all burst into the classroom, everybody would be cheering, and somehow, Peter would know how much I like him and come over and say hello especially to me. When I listen to them in my room, I just think they're so fantastic and strong that they could do anything."

The KISS Army is ever on the march, swinging with their favorite band over transistor radios, decked out in the latest KISS T-shirts, swapping the newest hot pix of Ace, Peter, Paul and Gene. Even the newspaper writers have to agree, as their sons and daughters demand all the news about KISS, that "KISS is for kids." And, obviously, the kids will always be for KISS!

THE GREAT KISS OFF
THE GREAT KISS OFF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Wonder Woman

YOU CAN LOOK LIKE KISS

When KISS take over a stage, all four shielded by their thick makeup and awesome costumes, the effect is instantaneous. They are full-fledged Supermen, four guys who just stepped out of a phone booth.

They were of ordinary height and weight, good looking enough but not so as to stop traffic, dressed in well tailored jeans and body-hugging tops... but *Shazam!* There they are, rock-powerful in those magical costumes, playing for tricks and treats every night.

The KISS style can be very tempting for fans, who often copy a favorite's garb so closely that one has to look twice to discover which twin is the real Paul Stanley.

KISS fans usually go out in full regalia only to a KISS concert or costume party, and to really look authentic, they give themselves an all-day job. KISS' clothing isn't exactly what can be found hanging on the racks at a local Sears, and, in fact, every bit of their outfits is handcrafted by talented designers.

KISS' outfits aren't changed that often either, for not only are they a really expensive proposition, but it takes time to break in each new pair of stratospheric footgear or scaly suit. Fortunately, the guys in KISS are all on the tall side, because a lightweight could get bowled over by the weight of the clothes. Underneath all the silver, leather and chrome, the guys wear black knit coverall tights, similar to Danskin cloth. Otherwise, the sweat they generate in 90 minutes of rock 'n' rolling could give lesser men heat prostration, not to mention a bit of fragrance around the edges.

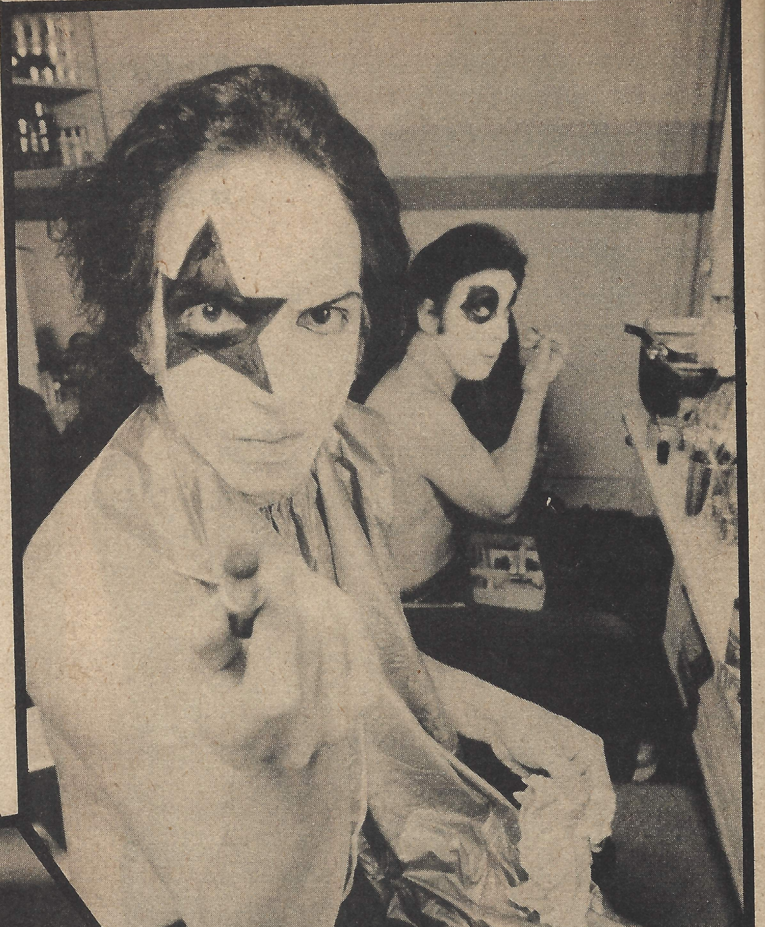
Even more vital to creating a KISS image than any costume item is the makeup, a constant part of the KISS

Make yourself up to look like KISS...Send in the pictures...Win a free subscription to GROOVES...And see your photo in our magazine!

show ever since their very first gig at New York's Coventry club. Paul used to paint a Lone Ranger raccoon mask around his eyes, but soon switched to the starry-eyed paint that suits him much better. Gene, Ace and Peter have applied their unique characterizations without change from 1973 until today, and yes, all that scraggly hair Gene piles into a high ponytail is really his own.

For a KISS fan to attend a show dressed like one of the four, he's spent at least one or two hours applying makeup as carefully as if he had a part in a play. KISS' makeup, and the only practical stuff for such thorough jobs, comes from theatrical suppliers such as Leichner, who makes everything from chalk-white foundation to a black lip polish evil enough to coat Gene's vampire smile. Keeping a thick coat of facial paint on for hours isn't going to do wonders for the complexion, but professional makeup is made to sit fairly easily on delicate skins.

Frustrating but true, the only way to get the exact appearance of Paul's ruby lips, Ace's space mask or Peter's cuddly whiskers is to practice, practice, practice — preferably not in the bathroom that's shared with five brothers and sisters. After five years plus experience, it still takes KISS and makeup aides at least three hours to get ready for a session with the photographers. But leave it to KISS to make the job easier on their fans. It had to happen, and at last KISS Cosmetics are for sale in shops from coast to coast. Naturally, the top item of the line is a makeup kit, as well as distinctive shampoo, soap and cologne named after the group.



Grooves takes you backstage for these exclusive photos

Suppose dressing exactly like Ace, Gene, Peter or Paul is a little *too much* for a regular day on the town, but a fan wants to wear something to show his or her support of KISS. Again, KISS has come to the rescue with a wide range of apparel sporting the name. There are T-shirts, with the group's name and latest LP cover embossed on the front, a KISS logo necklace, a KISS logo patch, a baseballish KISS tour cap and belt buckle. Before long, a line of KISS jeans will be in special shops across the U.S. You can listen to the latest KISS hits on their own special six-transistor radio, with the group's name and faces on the front. It's possible to get most KISS merchandise at the concerts or selected record shops, but one way to guarantee finding any item is to join the KISS Army, their international fan club, which offers its members KISS goodies hot off the press. For information, write them at KISS Army, 10960 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. There's even a sheet of water soluble tattoos, so extra-loyal fans can wear their favorites close to the heart, without giving their parents a rude shock.

And one final touch that's not recommended except for a Halloween lark, but we know that someone out there is going to use it to freak out their friends—Gene controls his carnivorous instincts by using fake gore, called Nexteé Simulated Blood, manufactured by 3M Company. Those who have a magic or joke shop nearby might be able to get hold of the ghastly goop. Of course, it's not poisonous, but it doesn't taste so hot either.

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So send those shots in today to:

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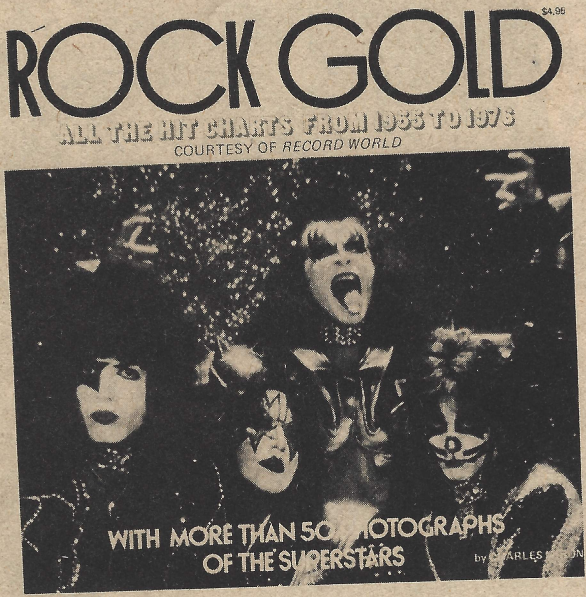
INTIMATE PEEK AT THE SUPERSTARS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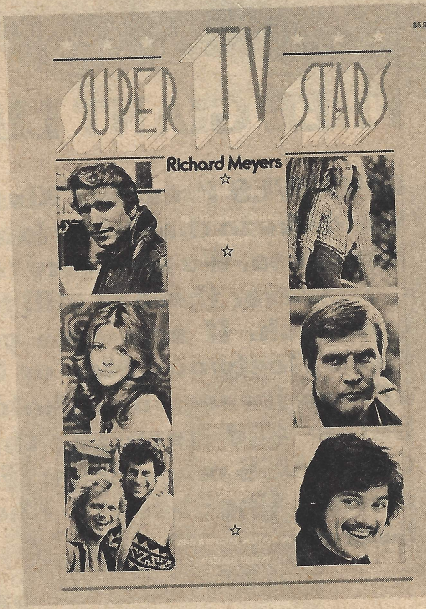
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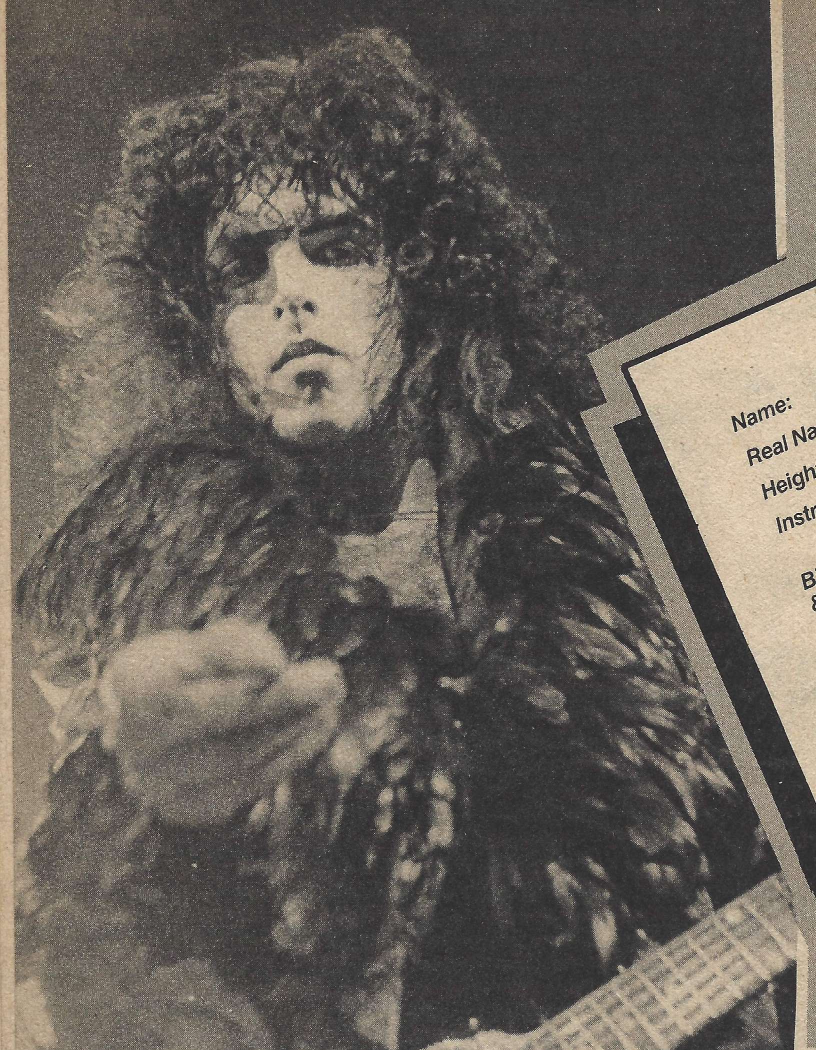
PAUL STANLEY

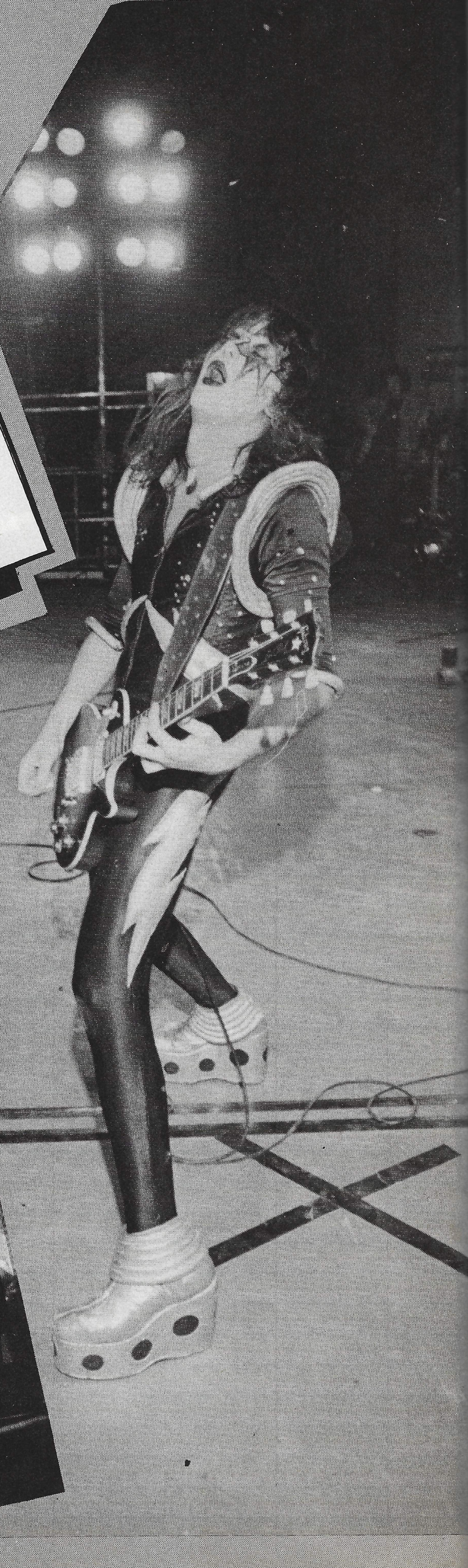
THE KISS PERSONAL FILE

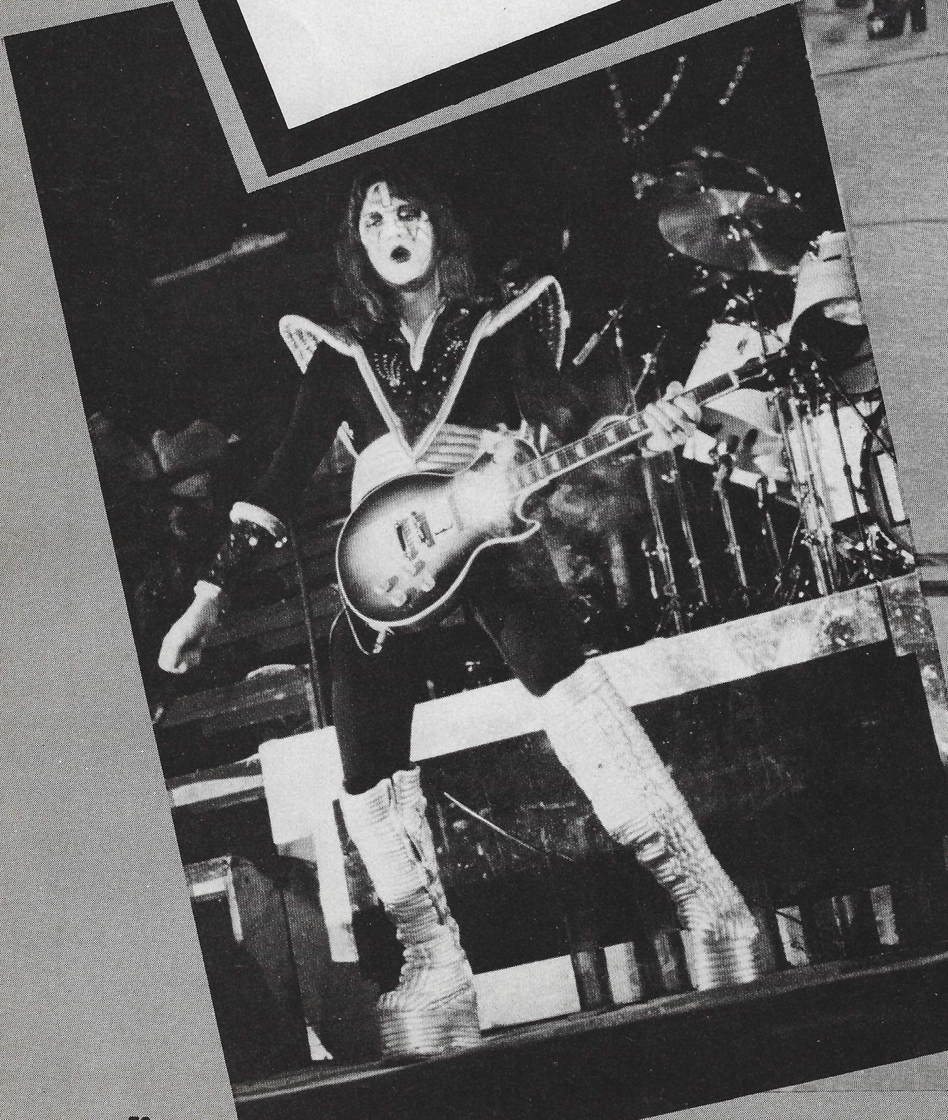


Name:	Paul Stanley
Real Name:	Stanley Eisen
Height/Weight:	6 feet; 160 lbs.
Instrument:	Rhythm guitar, lead & harmony vocals
Birth Date & Place:	January 20th, Queens, N.Y.
Education:	High School of Music & Art, NYC
Marital Status:	Very available
Fave Musicians:	Led Zeppelin, Rod Stewart, Robert Plant
Fave Actors:	Jack Nicholson
Fave Colors:	Black & Silver
Fave TV Shows:	The Bionic Woman
Fave Foods:	Japanese; candy bars (before he goes onstage)
Hobbies:	Women, painting, hanging out
Loves KISS Because:	He's in with the "in" crowd now; loves to go wild onstage

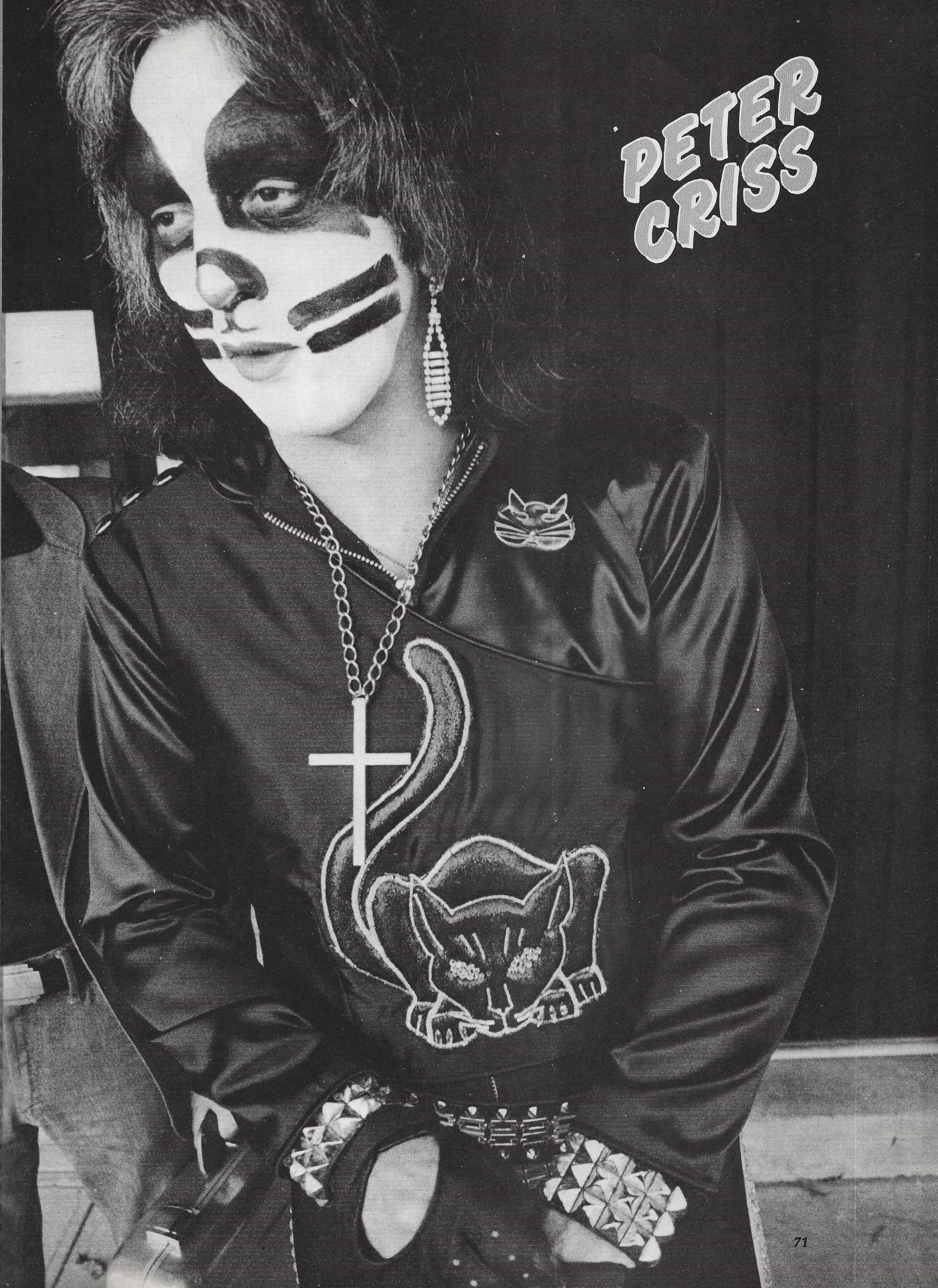
ACE FREHLEY

Name:	Ace Frehley
Real Name:	Paul Frehley
Height/Weight:	6 feet 2 inches; 160 lbs.
Instrument:	Smokin' lead guitar, vocals
Birth Date & Place:	April 27th, Bronx, N.Y.
Education:	Asked to leave more than a few Bronx high schools
Marital Status:	Married Jeannette in 1977
Fave Musicians:	Led Zeppelin, The Who, the Stones
Fave Actors:	Humphrey Bogart, George C. Scott, Paul Newman
Fave Colors:	Black & Silver
Fave TV Shows:	Star Trek, Space 1999, The Jetsons
Fave Foods:	Good champagne, pizza & beer
Hobbies:	Hang-gliding, painting, astronomy, laser experiments
Loves KISS Because:	It gives him the chance to engage in mental interplanetary travel until the real thing comes along

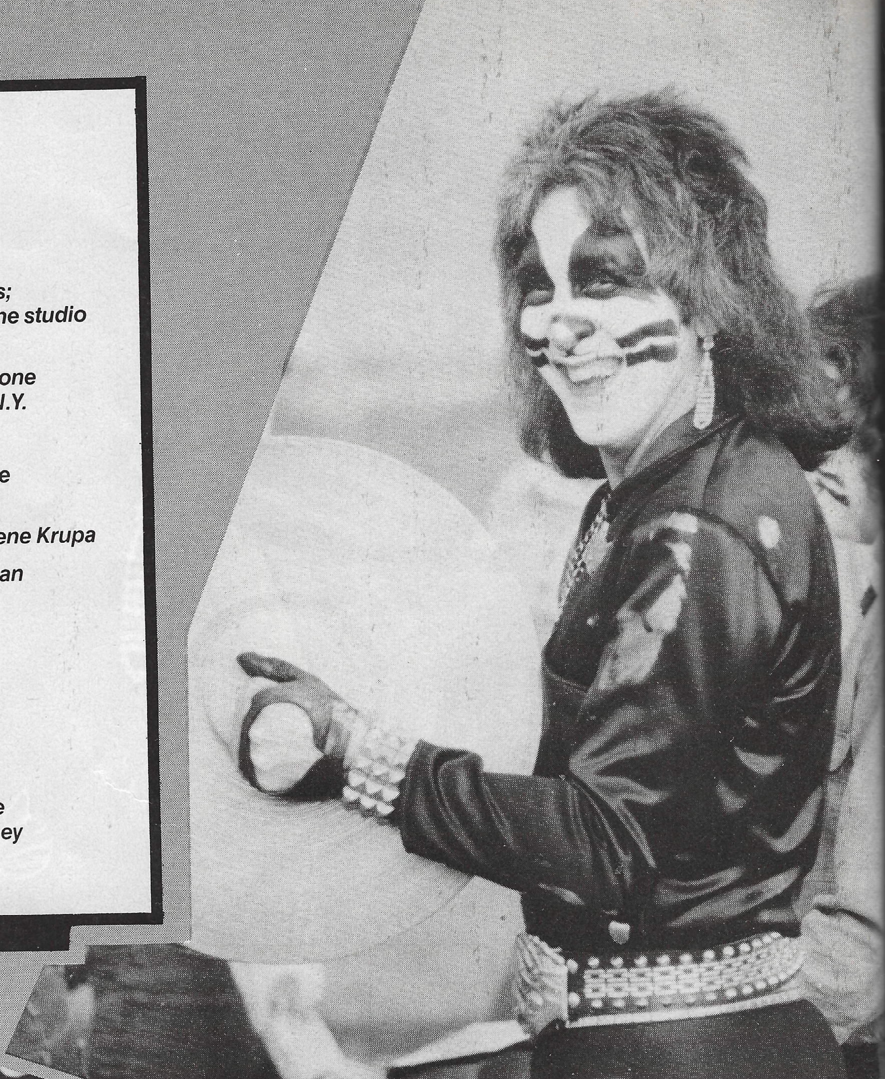




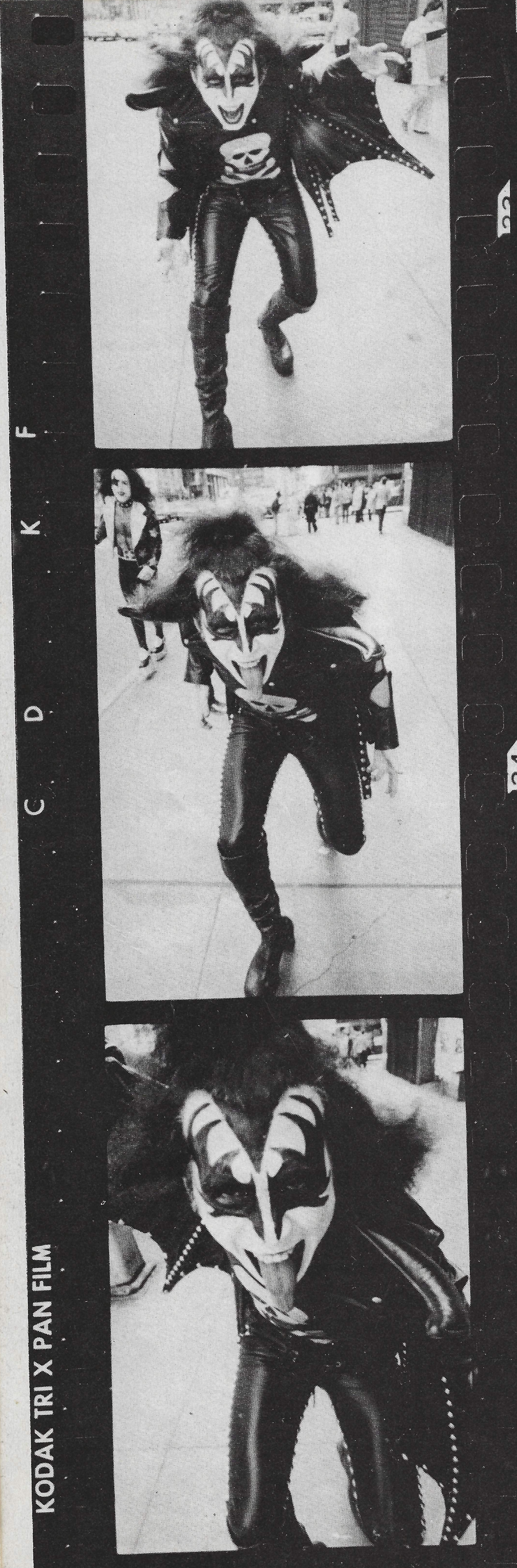
PETER CRISS



Name:	Peter Criss
Real Name:	Peter Crisscoula
Height/Weight:	5 feet 9 inches; 140 lbs.
Instrument:	Drums (custom made), vocals; does piano & guitar work in the studio
Birth Date & Place:	December 20, 1947 (the only one to admit his age), Brooklyn, N.Y.
Education:	Catholic school
Marital Status:	Married to Lydia, for whom he wrote Beth (you figure it out)
Fave Musicians:	The Stones, jazz drummer Gene Krupa
Fave Actors:	Al Pacino, Robert DeNiro, Joan Crawford
Fave Colors:	Green
Fave TV Shows:	Barretta
Fave Foods:	Cat food, ho, ho ho…
Hobbies:	Collecting guns, painting, throwing darts
Loves KISS Because:	He can treat himself, his wife and his family to anything they want



GENE
SIMMONS


KODAK TRI X PAN FILM
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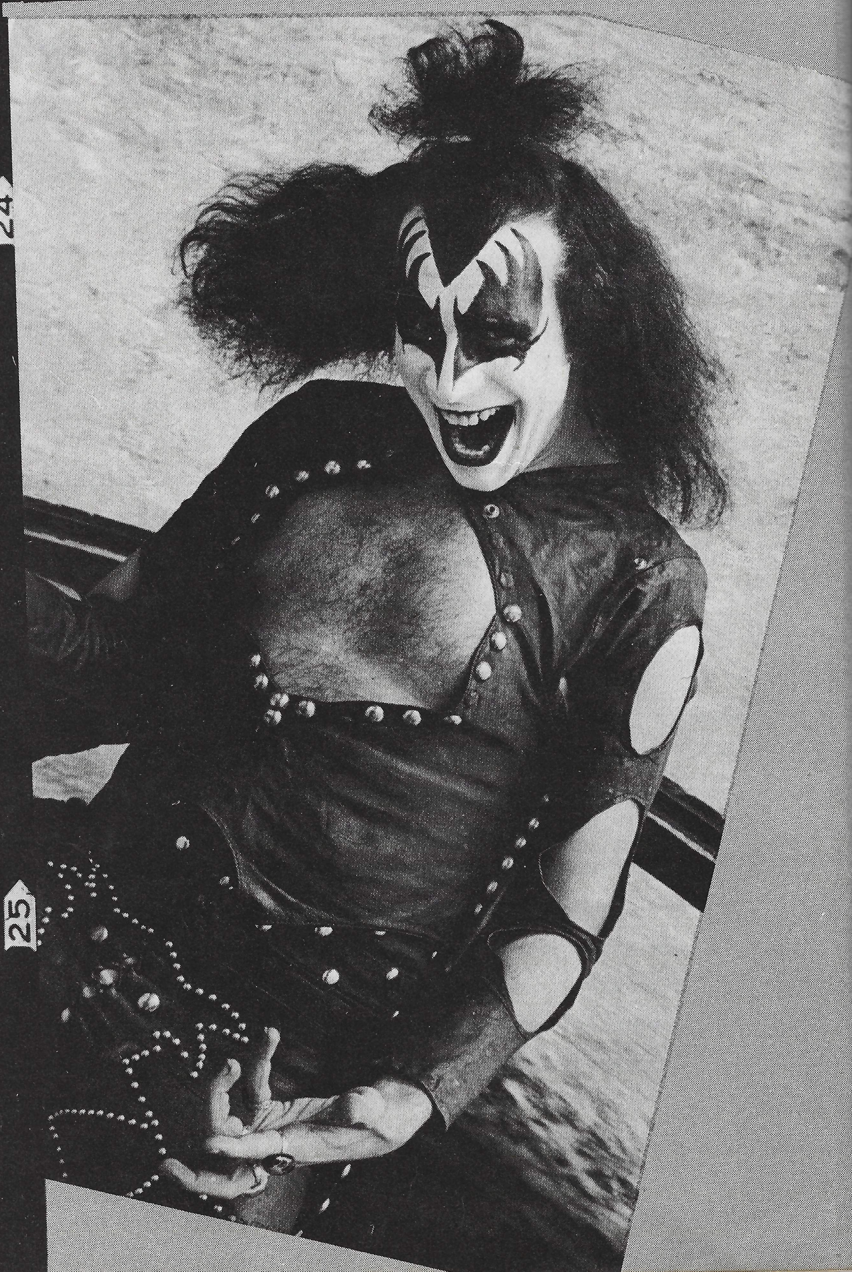
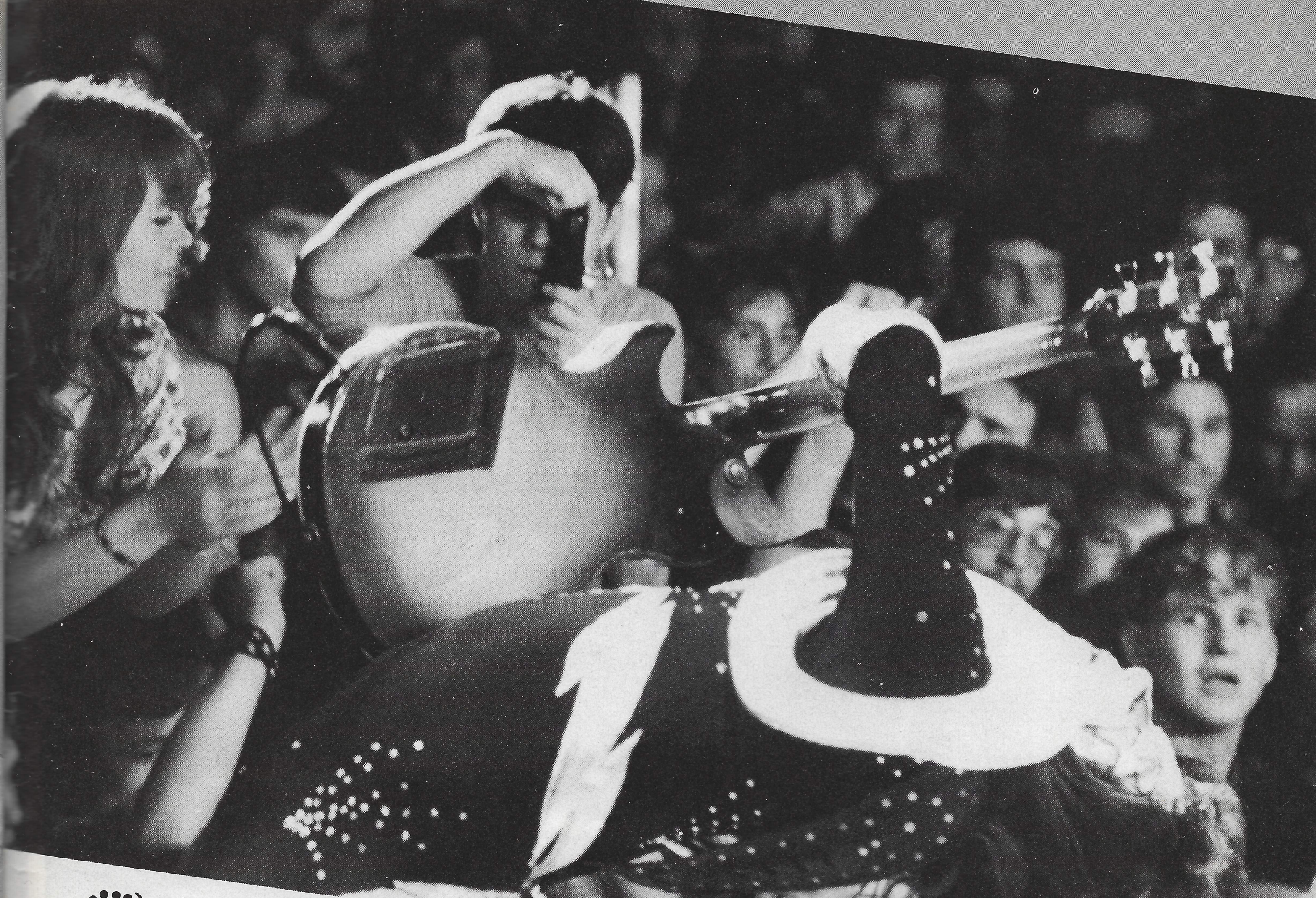
Name:	Gene Simmons
Real Name:	Gene Klein
Height/Weight:	6 feet 2 inches; 165 lbs. (detached from his boots)
Instrument:	Bass guitar, vocals (& tongue)
Birth Date & Place:	August 25, Transylvania
Education:	College graduate, taught at P.S. 75 in Manhattan
Marital Status:	Current girlfriend—Cher Bono Allman
Fave Musicians:	Himself and three close friends
Fave Actors:	Lon Chaney
Fave Colors:	Anything, as long as it's black
Fave TV Shows:	Horror shows
Fave Foods:	Censored
Hobbies:	Playing with his Sony Betamax and collecting dirty pictures
Loves KISS Because:	He can indulge his craziness to the fullest extent and terrorize a whole city just by arriving in town





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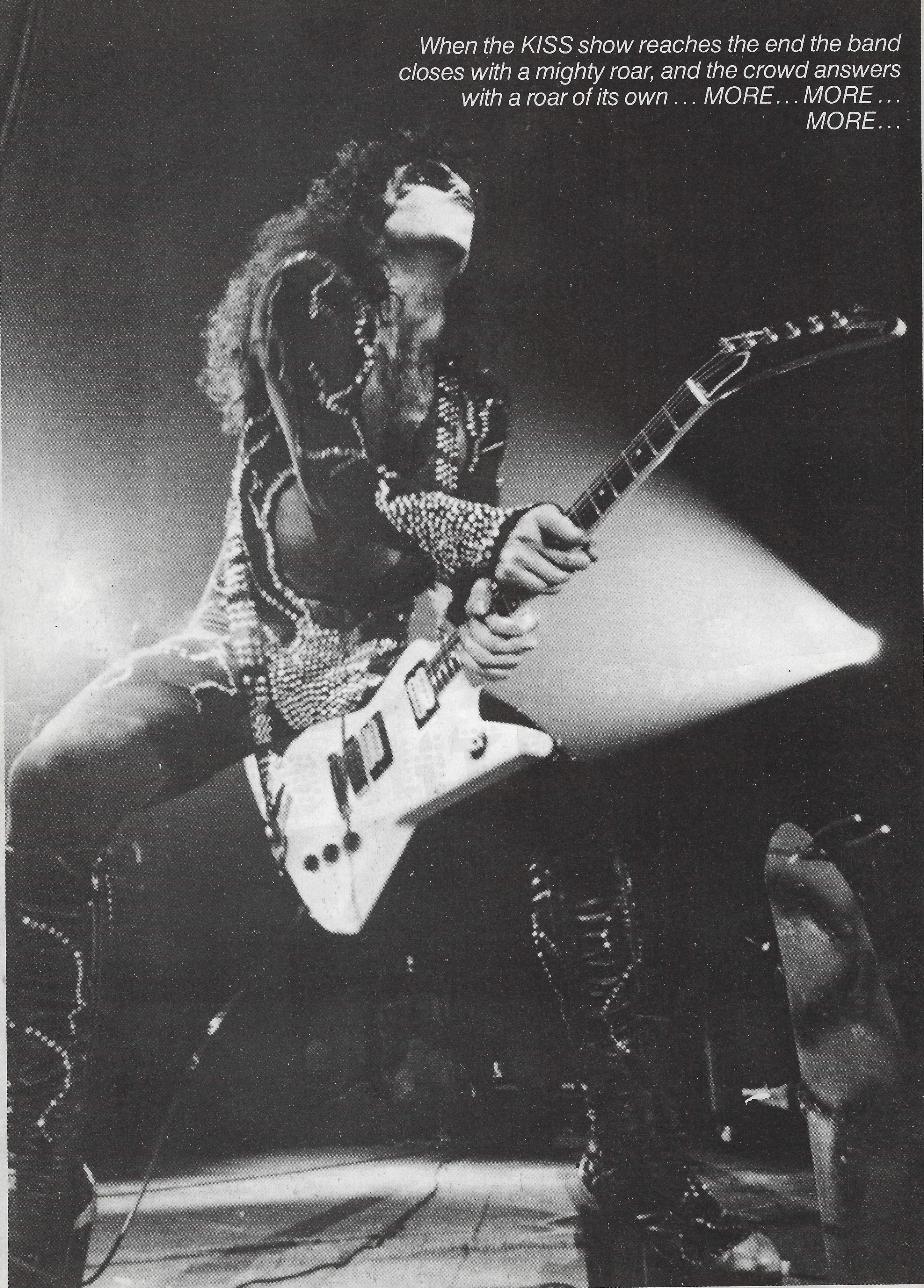

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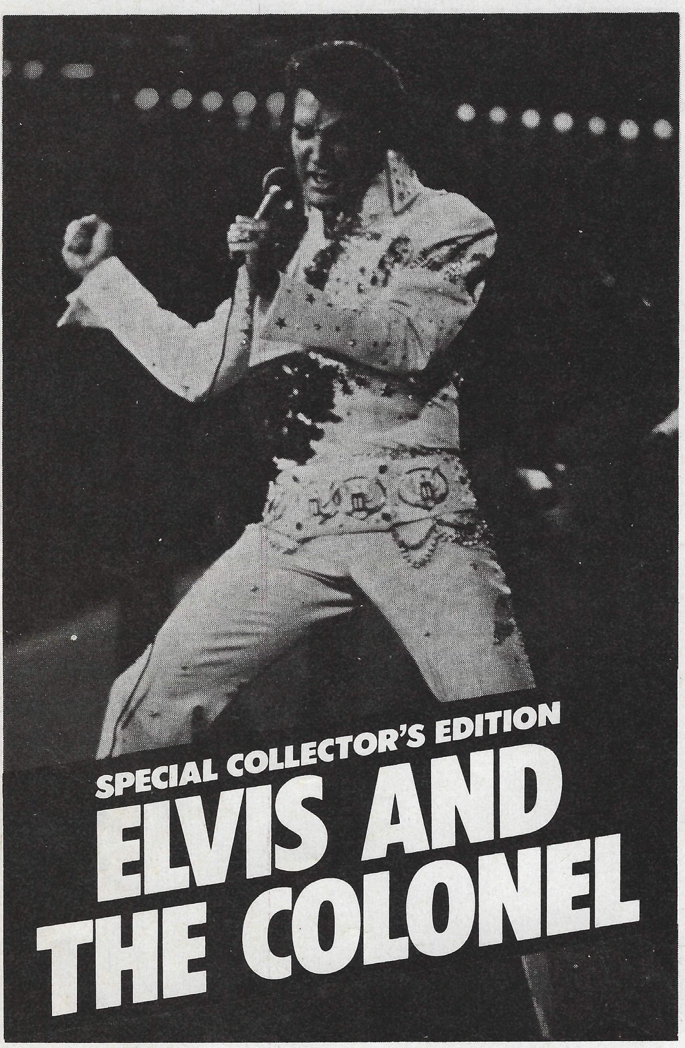

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